



### LIFE OF THE PARTY

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## Lost forever: a nation's heritage looted by its own people



A cast of a poet from the lost Bagram collection

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AFGHANISTAN has lost its past to war. Great palaces and mansions are destroyed, historical monuments have been shelled, the National Museum is rubble. Every item of state treasure has been smashed, sold or stolen. Few countries have been so systematically raped by their own people.

The plunder and destruction began after the former Soviet Union invaded in 1979. The country disintegrated socially and economically, but arguably as disastrous has been

the destruction of its heritage — which was unique because of Afghanistan's position at the crossroads of commerce and conquest for thousands of years.

The National Museum held one of the world's greatest multicultural antique collections: Persian, Indian, Chinese, Central Asian and beyond. The Russians respected and protected the relics, but American-backed Mujahidin rebels saw them as ready cash, to be blasted out of their vaults and hauled away to buyers across the world. The collection can never be reassembled, or even located. Pottery from prehistory was

bundled into bags like cheap china: ivory statues of Indian courtesans from the 2nd century AD were stuffed into the pockets of gunmen and carted off to Pakistan to be sold for a song, eventually turning up on the world's antique art markets for huge sums.

The Bagram collection, one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century, disappeared — 1,800 lacquers, bronzes, ivories, glassware items and statues from ancient Rome, Greece, India, China, Egypt and Central Asia. The trove, some of it dating from the 1st century, was discovered northeast of Kabul in

1939 in two sealed rooms. This was the site of Kapisa, summer capital of Kanishka, King of the Kushans. In the 2nd century the emperors of Rome and the Han emperors of China avidly exchanged their most exotic products with the Kushan Empire, many of which were found at Bagram. Some were probably from a Kushan national museum. Of this, nothing is left.

More than 40,000 coins, among them some of the world's oldest from prehistory, vanished. Afghan and Pakistani politicians were key players in the plunder of these and other items from the National

Museum, and it is known that one piece is held by Major-General (retired) Naserullah Babar, the Pakistani Home Minister, who bought it for three million rupees (£57,000). He says he will return it when there is peace in Afghanistan.

A marble fountain bowl, found near the tomb of Babar (1403-1530), first of the six Great Moguls, has gone. Lorryloads of items from Afghan prehistory — Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic — were carried away like junk, to be sold for pennies, or dumped because they seemed worthless. Of the entire vast collection, the whereabouts of only

13,000 pieces was known up to 1994. In and around Kabul the destruction of the architectural heritage is almost absolute. There is one strange survivor: the modest marble tomb of Babar, sitting on a hill overlooking the capital, its marble canopy bullet-holed and broken, but the tomb itself in perfect condition save for some carved graffiti. It is the centrepiece of a once beautiful park, its lush gardens returned to desert, its trees chopped to stumps for firewood. The Persian inscription on the tomb reads: "The Persian inscription on the tomb of Babar, page 15"

## 'Good citizen' prize honours stabbed head

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ANNUAL good citizenship award for young people is to be set up in the name of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence, Michael Howard announces today.

The Home Secretary says that the memorial award, which will recognise outstanding contributions towards the community, is one of a series of ideas being considered by the Government to improve society.

Ministers also aim to reduce violence on TV, to announce a scheme by the end of the year to identify potential offenders and turn them away from crime, and to establish a national network to prevent crime and combat violence. "That might include a 'mentor' system where adults are asked to befriend and supervise individual young people."

Writing in *The Times* today, Mr Howard says that details of the citizenship award will be discussed with Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, who this week launched her own campaign to reverse the deterioration of society. The Home Secretary writes: "In taking forward the values for which he (Mr Lawrence) stood, we can at the same time honour his memory."

Mrs Lawrence was last night delighted by the announcement. "The children and I are profoundly moved that the Government wishes to mark Philip's life in this way,"

she said. "I also hope that plans to put lessons in citizenship at the heart of the curriculum will go ahead."

She and her family had been heartened by the enormous support that she had received from all quarters. "I am taking stock of all the suggestions made and hope in the next few days to see how we can translate hopes into action."

Mr Howard's initiatives came as all three party leaders endorsed Mrs Lawrence's manifesto. Mrs Lawrence has had meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and she is also expected to meet Tony Blair and his education spokesman, David Blunkett.

Yesterday ministers and shadow ministers vied to outdo each other by announcing or confirming a series of initiatives in response to her programme — although Mrs Shephard, who announced that the Government was to pilot good citizenship classes, denied that politicians were being driven to action by public movements such as Mrs Lawrence's and the Dubliners' Snowdrop campaign against guns.

Mr Blair backed her call for lessons on good citizenship to be included in the national curriculum and said Mrs Lawrence had done a real service for the country. John

Major said that Mrs Lawrence had "touched a chord" and had strong support from the Government, while Paddy Ashdown said that she was speaking for "millions of Britons."

One of Mrs Lawrence's proposals was a ban of the sale of combat knives and while Mr Howard does not commit the Government to that, he indicates in his *Times* article that he intends to extend the ban on the sale of knives to the under 16s which comes into effect on January 1.

He also says that a green paper will be published soon to extend the tagging system to cover young offenders and further legislation will be introduced to make it easier for schools to discipline disruptive pupils.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, meanwhile announced that he would be putting forward plans to introduce special parenting classes to advise teenagers and young adults of the difficulties of bringing up a family.

Mr Straw will also propose new "parental responsibility orders" which would require parents to take counselling sessions or attend classes if a court found that they were not looking after their children properly.



Cardinal Basil Hume launches the Catholic church's policy document yesterday

## Murder witness to give away £250,000 reward

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH tourist whose evidence helped to convict Ivan Milat, the Australian "backpacker murderer", says he will give a £250,000 reward to charity and the victims' families.

Paul Onions, 30, told Channel Nine television in Australia: "I would like to donate all the money to the victims' families and the New South Wales Homicide Support Group." He added: "Surely there should be some morals left where you don't need money to give evidence."

Yesterday Mr Onions was praised by Jacqueline Clarke, whose daughter Caroline, 21, was murdered by Milat along with her travelling companion Joanne Walters, 22, of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan.

"He sounds like a very special young man. It is an extremely generous gesture and very unusual in this day and age."

"All the families were so grateful for what he did that I am sure none of them would begrudge him keeping at least a small amount of the money for himself," Mrs Clarke, of Slaley, Northumberland, said.

Mr Onions was the only known survivor of an attack by Milat, 51, who was jailed



Onions: "special man"

for life in July for murdering seven backpackers. His identification of the killer was crucial in securing a conviction. The reward was offered by Australian Police before Milat's capture.

The air-conditioning engineer from Willenhall, in the West Midlands, was on a backpacking tour of Australia in 1990 when he was given a lift by Milat. He narrowly escaped death when his attacker shot at him and wrestled him to the ground alongside the Sydney-Melbourne road. Mr Onions escaped by throwing himself in front of an oncoming car, forcing it to stop.

## Oxford student, 18, found dead in bed

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PROMISING Oxford classics student has been found dead in her college bed one week into her first term. Police were last night investigating how Rachel Steer, 18, from Surbiton in Surrey, died. No one else was believed to have been involved and a post-mortem examination is being held today.

Rachel arrived at Oxford two weeks ago and was thought to be settling in well at St Hilda's, the university's last all-female college. Dr Jane Taylor, the Dean, said: "We have no idea of the cause of death. She was a most promising student and perfectly cheerful."

"Her tutor was very impressed both with her quality of work and the way she was dealing with it. Her friends say she had a lovely sense of humour. She was a lovely, happy, intelligent, pretty girl."

Dr Taylor added that Rachel's friends had seen her on Sunday and raised the alarm when she did not turn up to lectures yesterday.

Ruth's parents travelled to the college yesterday where they were being comforted by the Principal, Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith.

Manchester loses to Wembley

Wembley looked almost certain to be chosen as the site of the new national stadium after the governing bodies of football, rugby league and athletics gave it unanimous backing over the rival bid from Manchester.

Although the £200 million cost of rebuilding the 74-year-old arena would be higher, the worldwide reputation of the twin-tower stadium gave Wembley the edge. A final decision is expected from the Sports Council by the end of the year after prolonged postponements. Page 52

## Former Tory MP joins Labour

BY RUTH GLEDHILL AND JAMES LANDALE

A former Conservative MP has joined the Labour Party, Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, 62, a management consultant, was the only Tory MP to join the SDP in 1981 but lost his seat at the 1983 general election. He has since unsuccessfully fought parliamentary seats as an SDP/Alliance candidate and as a Liberal Democrat candidate.

## Ministers clash over Catholic Church's 'pro-left manifesto'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Catholic Church last night faced a barrage of criticism after advocating a range of left-leaning policies in a pre-election manifesto designed to remind Catholics of the church's teaching on social issues.

Although bishops denied that the document favoured any political party, their support of key Labour policies such as a national minimum wage prompted criticism from Tory MPs and ministers.

But two ministers appeared to be at odds over the document. While Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attacked its support for a minimum wage, Ann Widdecombe, a junior Home Office minister and leading Catholic, claimed that the document had been misrepresented.

She repeated the church's view that the document did not advocate a minimum wage, but merely stated that the policy was not prohibited under Catholic teaching.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, claimed the church's views tallied with Labour's. "We think the values they are espousing, and the hope that they want to see for the future, is in line with the stance and the promises of the Labour Party." Launching

the 35-page document yesterday, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said it did not attempt to propose specific solutions to complex social, economic and political questions. "Much less is it a directive to people how they should vote," he said.

"That would be quite improper on the part of us the bishops. We expect Catholics to study what we have said and vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience."

However, the document, titled *The Common Good*, condemns the "unlimited free market", says the decline in trade union membership is "not necessarily a healthy sign", and speaks warmly of Britain's membership of the European Union. "It is possible to be both British and European," it says. The report demands that workers should



"I've got a friend who would like a few words with you, too"

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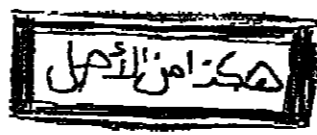
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# 'Dead' backpacker returns in time for funeral



**BY ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK AND MICHAEL HORSNELL**

A BACKPACKER flies home to Britain from the Far East today to be reunited with the family who believed he was dead. Even his funeral had been arranged.

Paul Cunningham, 25, was reported to have swallowed 43 condoms packed with heroin, one of which had burst in his stomach. However, the news of his death proved to be exaggerated after the Foreign Office uncovered a case of mistaken identity involving a stolen, doctored passport.

The real victim, involved in an international smuggling ring, proved to be a West African drugs runner on his way from the southern Thai town of Hat Yai to

Penang in Malaysia, where there is an international airport. He is thought to have been thrown out of a taxi by colleagues after he became ill. Having crossed the Thai border at Sadao successfully, he was found lying in a coma by the roadside in Butterworth in northern Malaysia.

The British Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was notified on October 10 after Mr Cunningham's passport was found on the dying man. The drug traffickers are thought to have bought the passport on the black market and doctored it with a bogus photograph. Mr Cunningham, a university graduate, did not report it missing for nearly a month.

The first Mr Cunningham knew of his "death" was when he walked into the British Embassy in Bangkok to ask for a replacement.

Shocked officials told him: "We thought you were dead. Even your funeral has been arranged."

Mr Cunningham's mother Dooreen, 49, said she went through "ten days of absolute hell" after hearing the news that her son had died. She said last night: "I feel as if I'm in the middle of a dream. The last ten days have been an absolute nightmare."

Mrs Cunningham, a mother of two from Oadby, Leicestershire, said after her son telephoned her: "Paul hadn't got a clue what was going on. He had no idea about the grieving at home and continued on his travels. To be told your son is dead and then he is alive is unreal. I can hardly describe my swing in emotions. I keep pinching myself to check it's real."

She added: "At the time I could

never imagine he was involved in drugs. He means so much to me. It was the worst thing a mother could ever imagine. I must have phoned the Foreign Office a dozen times to check there hadn't been a dreadful mistake. But I suppose when you have a son of that age you never know exactly what they are up to."

Paul's father Ruel, 52, said embassy officials were positive it was his son who had died. "I am just extremely relieved to know that everything said about him was totally untrue. We always believed in him."

A spokeswoman for Leicestershire police said: "Our officers acted on the request of the Foreign Office to inform Mr Cunningham's family that he had died while in Malaysia. However, the Foreign Office later informed the force that

Mr Cunningham was alive and well in Bangkok."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Apparently Mr Cunningham lost his passport in September and reported it to the embassy only on Friday. During that time his passport was doctored and found on the body of the dead man."

"We regret the distress caused to the family but the good news is that he is alive and well. Had we been notified earlier of the loss of the passport we would have asked for much more investigation by the Malaysian authorities."

He added: "It is a very tragic case. Something like this is a terrible trauma for the parents and family to go through. We will be investigating it further."

Mr Cunningham had spent six months visiting an uncle in New

York before exploring Australia and Thailand, where he is believed to have lost his passport on September 18.

□ The Foreign Office has mounted an "intensive" investigation into a report that Christopher Howes, thought to have been taken by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, may still be alive. Mr Howes, 36, a mines expert, had been feared dead months after his capture in March.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in London yesterday that they were making intensive inquiries following the report. "We are urging the Cambodian authorities to look at it thoroughly and we are seeking further information from our ambassador in Phnom Penh. But until we have hard evidence it is yet another report that we can neither confirm nor deny."

## Midshipman says officers leered at porn film and captain tried to kiss her

# Navy woman tells of sex taunts in the wardroom

By Emma Wilkins

A ROYAL Navy commander dressed as Julius Caesar tried to kiss a woman midshipman in centurion's clothing during a fancy dress party in the Falkland Islands, it was claimed yesterday.

Claire McGarrity, 25, who was dismissed from the Royal Navy last year, brought her case before an industrial tribunal, claiming that she had been the victim of sexual discrimination. She told about pornographic videos being shown in the officers' mess and of how the ship's captain, a commander, touched her on the hips while reading maps on the bridge.

Miss McGarrity told the hearing that she had tried to avoid him at the party but he eventually approached her and remarked that it would be "jolly" if they danced together. "Towards the end of the evening the captain said he was surprised I had not danced with him. He pulled my hands and took me to dance."

"As he did so he tried to kiss me and I pulled away quite sharply, feigned an excuse and rushed back to my living accommodation." Miss McGarrity, from Newcastle upon Tyne, told the hearing in Exeter. The tribunal has ordered that neither the captain nor his ship be identified.

Miss McGarrity also claimed that the captain touched her on the hips while they were studying navigation charts behind a curtain on the bridge. "He put his hands on my hips and moved me

around the chart table, so he could see the navigation work being done by myself. I felt it was unnecessary as there was enough room to see. I did not complain because he was a commander and I was a midshipman, and I was frightened."

Miss McGarrity, who was one of three women trainee officers on board, began to avoid her male colleagues in the wardroom after finding them watching a pornographic video. Instead of eating with her fellow officers, she had sandwiches alone in her cabin.

"On one occasion I was unfortunate enough to walk in on a particularly embarrassing video, which I did not think was appropriate," she said. "It was a video being shown to the male officers. I said it should not be shown because it is embarrassing and upsetting when your colleagues are leering at the screen. It makes you feel embarrassed to be a female."

"The male crew members would go out for drinks. When they returned, they would talk about their sexual conquests. Then they would ask me what I did and who I was with. I said it was none of their business, but it just got worse. It was unacceptable. There wasn't a day that passed without comments being made."

She said that male colleagues asked her to find out if the other women trainees were having a lesbian affair. She admitted having an affair with a male junior rating and said

she was surprised and upset later when the captain recommended that she should be withdrawn from training and flown home from the Falklands.

"I had been told by the captain I had improved and that it was unfortunate I was leaving when he was just starting to like me so much," she said.

Under cross-examination by Martin Meeke, for the Royal Navy, she agreed that she had been warned about her relationship with the rating and was criticised for spending too much time with the lower ranks. Mr Meeke quoted from a report by the captain which described the relationship as "unacceptably close."

The Navy says that Miss McGarrity was not dismissed, but resigned after being sent home from Dartmouth when officers recommended that she be withdrawn from training.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said all serving personnel knew that forming a sexual relationship with a colleague on board was a disciplinary offence, which could ultimately result in a court martial.

He added that the service was keen to attract women. "We want to encourage more women to join the Royal Navy to have a sailing career." He also said that the showing of pornographic films was "actively discouraged", but could not be completely prevented.

The tribunal was adjourned until today.



Claire McGarrity yesterday: she claims she was the victim of sex discrimination

## The ears have it for witness in theft case

By a Staff Reporter

THE main witness in a theft case remained silent on the stand yesterday, but in a crucial test of identification allowed members of the jury to examine his ears.

Darwin, an 18-month-old lemon-coloured foxhound, stood patiently in the witness box as the 12 jurors filed past to inspect distinctive markings in its ears. The South Dorset Hunt, based in Lyme Regis, has accused the owner of a pet sanctuary of stealing the £750 dog from a hunt trainer. The English foxhound has tattoos on the inside of both ears, reading SD and 18, which identify it as belonging to the South Dorset Hunt.

Lorraine Drake, 45, who runs the PALS sanctuary in Newton Tony, Wiltshire, is accused of stealing the hound between July 14 and July 26 last year. She also faces two alternative charges of receiving and disposing of the stolen dog.

The prosecution alleges that Ms Drake stole Darwin from a farm in Wiltshire, Dorset, where the puppy was being prepared for hunting. Justin Gau, for the prosecution, told Exeter Crown Court that the dog was renamed Bertie the Beagle and sold to an unsuspecting local vicar, the Rev Frank Collins. The army padre, who is based at Bulford, Wiltshire, bought the puppy for his four children for £125. They were thrilled with the animal and changed his name once again - to Huckleberry Hound.

Mr Gau told the court: "Ms Drake stole Mr Collins the dog was a foxhound. She said he had come from a hunt and if the Reverend looked in the animal's ear he would see tattoos which were a mark of the hunt."

Mr Collins made inquiries

and discovered that the foxhound he had been sold was missing from the South Dorset Hunt. Ms Drake was arrested and interviewed by Wiltshire police. She told detectives that she did not know the dog was stolen.

Yesterday afternoon Darwin bounded into the witness stand, close on the heels of Edward Knowles, Master of the South Dorset Hunt. As Mr Knowles gave evidence the dog stood quietly behind him, occasionally leaping up on to his back legs to look around the courtroom.

Mr Knowles told the hearing that foxhounds did not make good pets and could not be sold to anyone who was not a member of the Master of Foxhounds' Association. He said that it was common knowledge all hunt dogs had identifying marks tattooed in their ears.

Ms Drake denies the charges against her. The trial continues.



Darwin: stood patiently in the witness box

## Wallace and Gromit survive New York

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK



Nick Park after his models were returned to him. "It's like getting my lost children back," he said

A TELEPHONE call before dawn yesterday from a New York taxi driver ended the hunt for the missing cartoon puppets Wallace and Gromit.

The 25-year-old cabbie, slightly mystified to find himself at the centre of an international mystery, rang to say that he had found some Plasticine objects in the boot of his Chevrolet, bumping around in their travelling case next to the spare wheel and greasy jack. He had realised what they were after hearing a radio news bulletin about their disappearance.

An hour later the driver delivered the Oscar-winning characters to the Manhattan hotel where their creator, Bristol-based Nick Park, had spent a fitful night.

"It is like getting my two lost children back," said Mr Park, who on Saturday afternoon had sprinted down a rain-soaked street in pursuit of the taxi when he realised that Wallace and Gromit had

been left in the boot. The nine-inch tall figures, constructed around ball and socket joints, included Wallace's celebrated motorbike and sidecar.

Mr Park, 37, has won three Oscars for his short animated films and is regarded as a world master of his art. He had taken the puppets, which cost £6,000 to make but had considerable emotional value, to the US on Saturday for a promotional tour. They were left behind in the taxi during a rainstorm when a mob of New Yorkers tried to seize the cab as Mr Park alighted at his hotel.

The Indian taxi driver who returned the pair yesterday declined to give his name and would not accept a \$100 note he was offered by Mr Park's factum and publicity adviser Arthur Sheriff. "Tell you the truth," said the streetwise Mr Sheriff, "I was prepared to pay \$500 to get them back." When the figures went miss-

ing Mr Park had been close to tears, but Mr Sheriff had taken more practical action. It was not quite Lord Lucan, but he alerted every police precinct in Manhattan, telephoned news agencies, and had Mr Park draw Interpol-style Identikit pictures of the missing models.

"I know it sounds like a joke, but they were a good likeness," said Mr Park. "I really didn't think I would see them again, and I would not have done if it had not been for this kindhearted taxi driver who just wanted to do the right thing."

Mr Park's engagingly honest mien forced one to regret earlier suspicions that the entire thing was a publicity stunt.

The puppets were reported to be in moderate condition, although slightly dented. Wallace's nose needed marginal adjustment and Gromit's ears could use some attention.

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# Man who shot car thief not guilty of manslaughter

By Adam Fresco

A MEMBER of a gun club was cleared of manslaughter yesterday despite admitting that he shot dead a man he found breaking into his car.

Martin Wise, 35, a gamekeeper, shot Matthew Hodge, 20, with a replica .25 automatic baby Browning pistol outside his home in Hildenborough, Kent when he saw him trying to steal his Ford Escort.

Mr Wise, a father of four, denied manslaughter at Maidstone Crown Court and said that the handgun had gone off accidentally in August last year. He said he pulled the pistol from his pocket to warn off Mr Hodge, who was armed with a monkey wrench. But as he cocked it, the gun went off.

At the time of his arrest police found 23 weapons at his home and at his mother's home. He said he did not know that the gun was loaded and did not deliberately shoot Mr Hodge as the Crown



Mr Wise leaving court in Maidstone yesterday

alleged. The jury was told that when Mr Wise reported the attempted car theft, he did not tell police about the shooting.

Mr Wise also asked a neighbour to take care of his collection of guns, including a .22 Ruger, a Smith and Wesson revolver and a rare Second World War Colt .45, before officers arrived.

At the time of the shooting he had been on his way to his parents' house, where he was required by the terms of his firearms certificate to keep his weapons. He had spent the day shooting at a range in Stone Lodge, near Dartford.

Mr Wise, a former Royal Engineer, has held a shotgun certificate since the age of 17 and a firearms certificate since the age of 21. He had been cleared of murder at an earlier trial.

Detective Superintendent David Clapperton said that Mr Wise's gun licence would be reviewed, particularly the number of weapons he had been allowed to own. He said: "Matthew was just 21 years of age and his life was taken away from him very tragically and very suddenly. A lot of negative things have been said about him during the trial but he would have grown out of those things. He was never given the opportunity."

Mr Wise said last night: "I am very pleased and now I have to think about what to do."

# Budgie firm's shares go into tailspin

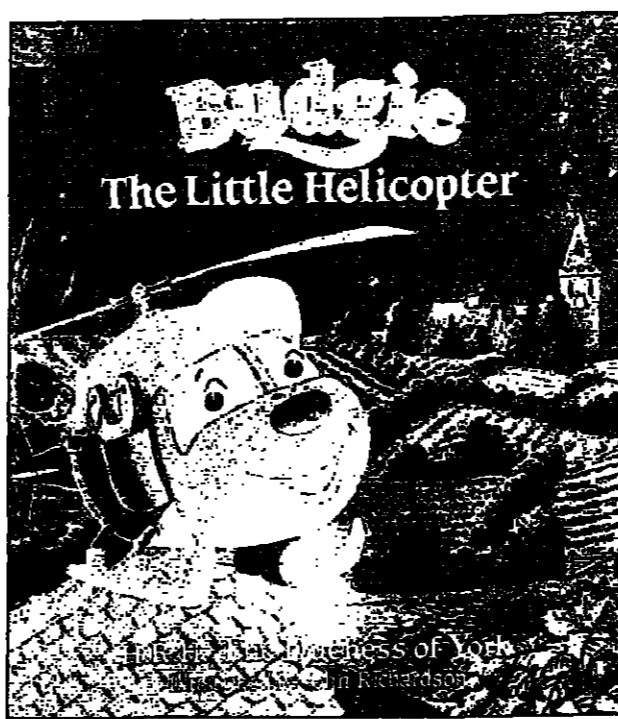
By Paul Durman

BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character created by the Duchess of York, hit fresh turbulence yesterday when marketing problems in the United States saw £2 million wiped off the value of the company that sits at its controls.

Hopes for a revival in the Duchess's notoriously over-stretched finances have often been pinned on Budgie, which contributes most of the profits of the stockmarket firm Sleepy Kids. Television rights have been sold to more than 70 countries, and last year the firm made profits of nearly £1 million.

However, the firm's shares fell 6½p to 20p yesterday, their lowest this year. The company is now valued at £6 million, down from £15 million.

Sleepy Kids blamed the latest problems on the failure of its American marketing agent, Launey Hachmann



Budgie is controlled by Sleepy Kids, whose shares fell by 6½p yesterday to their lowest this year

Harris, which was forced to seek protection from its creditors in April. In a statement to the Stock Exchange, made necessary by its collapsing share price, Sleepy Kids said that it had been unable to capitalise on the "initial success" of the Budgie cartoons shown on the Fox Children's Network. The company said it was too early to quantify the damage to profits.

It intends to relaunch Budgie throughout the United States once it has appointed a new agent. First, though, it must straighten out some legal difficulties. In the 12-point statement, the company attempted to rebut some recent criticisms. For example, it said that Fox had not "dropped" the Budgie series, only rescheduled it. Budgie had been very successful on Fox, the company said, and it was discussing making a fourth series for the ITV network.

# JP and ex-wife jailed for lying about crash

A magistrate and his former wife were jailed for lying over a drink-drive accident. John and Anne Bosomworth tried to convince the police and a magistrates' court that she had been at the wheel of their Range Rover when it crashed while returning home to Beamsley, North Yorkshire, after a night out in September 1994. At Leeds Crown Court yesterday, the former Mrs Bosomworth was jailed for nine months, and her former husband for 15 months, after they admitted perverting the course of justice and perjury.

# Foetuses 'feel pain at six weeks'

A foetus may be able to feel pain six weeks after conception, says a report by the charity Christian Action Education and Research. A commission of inquiry concluded that almost every expert accepts foetuses can feel pain by 24 weeks, with growing evidence it may occur much earlier. The conclusion has implications for abortion and operations.

# Aberfan remembers its dead

The people of Aberfan gathered at a hillside cemetery yesterday, the thirtieth anniversary of the coal tip disaster that killed 116 children and 28 adults. Relatives laid flowers on the rows of graves. The Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, William Smith, laid a wreath at a memorial service at 9.15am, the time a coal tip slid down the hillside in 1966.

# Broadcasters snub Belfast

Up to 200 of Europe's leading broadcasters have abandoned plans to hold a major conference in Belfast next summer because of fears that they will be vulnerable to terrorist violence. The BBC, which is hosting the event, has switched the venue to Edinburgh. The IRA bomb attack on army barracks at Lisburn triggered the change of heart.

# Guardsman wins action

A Grenadier Guardsman, Stephen Jordan, 25, of Bilston, West Midlands, who claimed he suffered epileptic fits after the Army imprisoned him for eight months, is understood to have accepted damages from the Ministry of Defence. He claimed he was not properly treated for his epilepsy and was once assaulted by a military policeman.

# Stagg lawyer accuses media

William Clegg, the lawyer who defended Colin Stagg, acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell, has written to *The Times* accusing the media of pursuing a campaign against his client. Yesterday Mr Stagg claimed he had new information about the murder of Miss Nickell in 1992 and demanded payment for disclosing it. Letters, page 19

# Bride sues GP after having stroke

A bride who was put on the Pill just before her wedding day suffered a catastrophic stroke that has left her totally paralysed, the High Court was told yesterday. Leena Vadera, of Hatch End, Pinner, was a month away from marriage in November 1986 when she consulted her GP. She is suing for damages. The hearing continues.

# Forsyth criticises gun group

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, criticised "insensitive" plans by a gun lobby group to field a general election candidate against him in the constituency of Stirling, which includes Dunblane. He is defending a majority of 703. The Shooters' Rights Association insisted it was the only way to highlight the arguments against strict gun laws.

# Labour puts in a call for support

The Labour leadership tried to inject renewed impetus into its manifesto ballot by canvassing 100,000 members by telephone. A week-long campaign was launched to encourage members to endorse or oppose the contents of the mini-manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*, which will be the basis of the party's general election campaign.

# Tory club ban leaves bad odour

A Conservative club has banned one of its members for six months after complaints that his feet smell. The committee at March, Cambridgeshire, voted to suspend Tony Fisher, 58, for repeatedly refusing to keep his shoes and socks on. Mr Fisher says he went barefoot to relieve his gout. A club spokesman said: "The odour pervaded throughout the bar."



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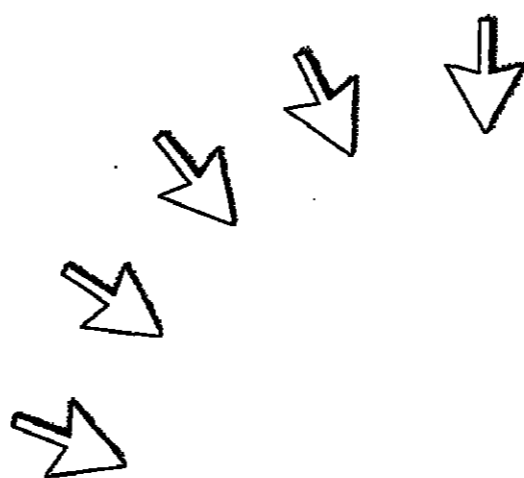


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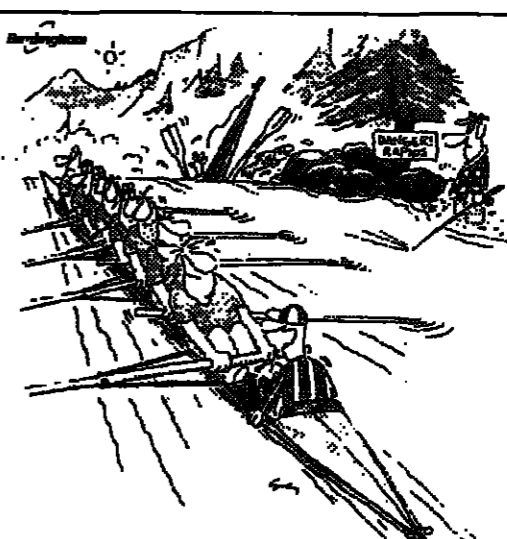
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# Plea to catch youths who dropped concrete on car Family of M3 victim beg parents to question sons

BY LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

THE parents of a man left critically ill when youths dropped a concrete block through his car windscreen from a motorway bridge appealed to other parents yesterday not to harbour those responsible.

After police said that the youths they were seeking could be as young as 13, Simon Willmott's mother asked parents to tell the police if they suspected their children were involved. Sandy Willmott said: "We want to speak to parents. You know the members of your household better than anyone. Since Simon was injured, whoever did this must be frightened and showing some reaction."

"Parents, if you sense something is wrong, please probe. If you think anyone in your household was involved in this incident, we are appealing to you to do the right thing for all parents and ring the police. Whoever did this must be made aware that, in one moment of foolishness, they have affected not just Simon, but so many others." She

begged parents to think back to last Thursday and to ask where their children were at 5pm, when the incident happened.

Mr Willmott remained unconscious with severe chest injuries in Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey, last night. Mrs Willmott, 50, and her husband, Alan, looked tired and drawn from their four-day vigil at his bedside. Mrs Willmott said that she had been pleased and surprised by the public's "fantastic" response in pleas for information: "We are absolutely overwhelmed by it all."

Police said they believed that three youths hurled the 1ft by 1ft block of concrete from the northern bridge at Junction 5 on the M3 near Hook, in Hampshire. Mr Willmott's Ford Escort was travelling at 70mph north from Bournemouth, where he works as an account executive with the cable company Nynex, to the home he shares with his parents in Bagshot, Surrey.

He managed to stop the car safely about 300 metres from



Simon Willmott is still unconscious in hospital

the bridge, but was unconscious by the time the first person got to him. His body had been crushed by the concrete block.

Half a dozen motorists have since told police about similar instances over the past weeks at the same spot. Detective Chief Inspector John James said it raised the possibility that the same group of youths had been responsible. He described the three

wanted teenagers as being between 5ft 4in and 5ft 10in tall, with one markedly taller than the others. They were believed to be aged between 13 and 19, dressed in dark clothes, with short, possibly cropped hair, and were of a slim or medium build. They had been spotted several times between 6.45pm and 8pm on the night in question.

Mr James said that he also wanted to trace other witnesses, including two youths aged about 14, with fair hair, seen in Station Road, Hook, and another youth aged between 15 and 20, seen alone on the bridge. Police were making inquiries yesterday at those local schools not on half-term and were talking to residents of Odiham and Hook.

Some in Odiham, a wealthy town to the south of the M3, refused to believe that anyone from the area could have been responsible. As one woman put it: "Teenagers from some housing estates down the way in Basingstoke must have done this. In this part of the world, children are properly brought up, properly educated and properly disciplined."



Sandy and Alan Willmott yesterday: they asked suspicious parents to ring police

# Good turn may rule out Varsity rugby blue

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CAMBRIDGE rugby blue could miss this year's Varsity match after his jaw was broken by a gang of youths when he and a friend intervened to protect a cyclist deliberately knocked off his bike.

Nick Holgate, a 15-stone prop forward, who has had a plate inserted in his jaw after a kick to the side of his head, said: "I've got a broken jaw, a black eye and some cuts. I wouldn't have minded if it had happened on the rugby pitch."

The injury to the third-year management studies student from Robinson College means that he cannot play rugby for six weeks - giving him only two weeks to get back in the team before the match in December. Mr Holgate, 21, said: "Competition for a place is very tough. I don't know if I'll be selected again. I've just got to try to keep fit."

Tony Rogers, Cambridge University coach, said the possibility of losing Mr Holgate was a disappointment but he had not completely ruled him out of contention. Three youths have been arrested and released on police bail.

# British sarnie is a must for le beau monde

FROM ROBIN YOUNG IN PARIS

HAVING taken over the leading fashion houses of Paris, the British are now introducing the French to something else they do better: the designer sandwich.

At this year's biggest food show in Europe, British sandwiches are the product most in vogue and discussed. "The chic thing in Paris at present is to be seen eating an *sandwich anglais*," Patrick Davis, head of Food from Britain, the British food promotion organisation, said at the SIAL show in Paris yesterday. With 130 trade exhibitors, the United Kingdom is third largest contributor to the exhibition and the British Sandwich Association has a leading role among the British stands.

"Some 50 Monoprix supermarkets in Paris now receive sandwiches direct from Britain every day," Dominique Mine, director of Food from Britain in France, said. "Buckingham Foods make the sandwiches in Milton Keynes one day and have them on sale in Paris next morning still with a two or three-day shelf life in which they can be sold."

British sandwiches are also now sold in other French supermarket chains and in Delhaize stores in Belgium. Buckingham exports more than a dozen varieties, all made in English bread with imaginative fillings - unlike the simple ham or cheese baguettes to which the French are accustomed.

Other companies in France assemble British sandwiches from ingredients supplied from Britain. Fresh Food Village sells its sandwiches in France's Prismic stores. A

company in Brittany packs English sandwiches in gas-flushed packets which give the product a shelf life of up to 14 days.

Peter Bartlett, managing director of Breadwinners, whose sandwiches sell in Tesco, Safeway and Harrods, said: "The principal problem at the moment is that the French cannot get their head around the idea of chilled fresh food delivered just in time for immediate consumption. They do not understand the logistics."

Mr Bartlett was, though, on the look-out for competent retailers who might take an interest in a cosmopolitan range of sandwiches, from roasted vegetables in focaccia to chicken and mixed leaves in a French baguette. Other recipes include Edam cheese and apple and mozzarella and sun-dried tomato paste, not forgetting BLT.

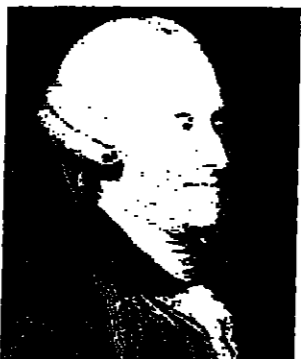
Most exotic of all is a Valentine Day sandwich with chocolate bread and a filling of mascarpone, peach and passion fruit. There is even a surprise chocolate in the pack, as what the French would call a *bonne bouche*.

Two British bagel companies are also at the show, hoping to follow in the wake of the sandwiches' success - Riddles Bagel Company and Mr Bagel. "We are already exporting to Spain, Gibraltar and Greece," said Dave Nickisson, on the Mr Bagel stand. "The bagels already on the market are too hard and too chewy. Ours are soft and pliable, and we're introducing at this show a pizza bagel as a new product to add to our cinnamon and raisin and poppy-seed versions."

# An earl's whim that changed our diet

WHEN, in 1762, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, slapped a slice of beef between two pieces of toast because he was too busy concentrating on the gaming tables to eat properly, he had no idea that his inventiveness would one day lead to a business worth £2 billion a year (Russell Jenkins writes).

The industry has grown so large that it requires the British Sandwich Association to look after its interests. Britons spend £5.2 million a day on ready-made sandwiches, consuming 1.3



The first sandwich-man

billion a year from 8,000 outlets. A survey published last July disclosed that the Scots are particularly enthusiastic sandwich-eaters. The late Elvis Presley's gargantuan sandwich concoctions are legendary.

However, the biggest sandwich ever made was created in Taipei. It was 2,000 ft long, with 1,520 lbs of bread and 3,060 lbs of filling.

Sandwiches call for caution and hygienic handling. They are a magnet for bacteria. In 1994 there were 82,000 incidents of food poisoning reported to the Public Health Laboratory in Colindale, north London.

About one-third of the population eat a sandwich they have bought ready-made every day. Around 94 per cent admit to eating one at least once a month.

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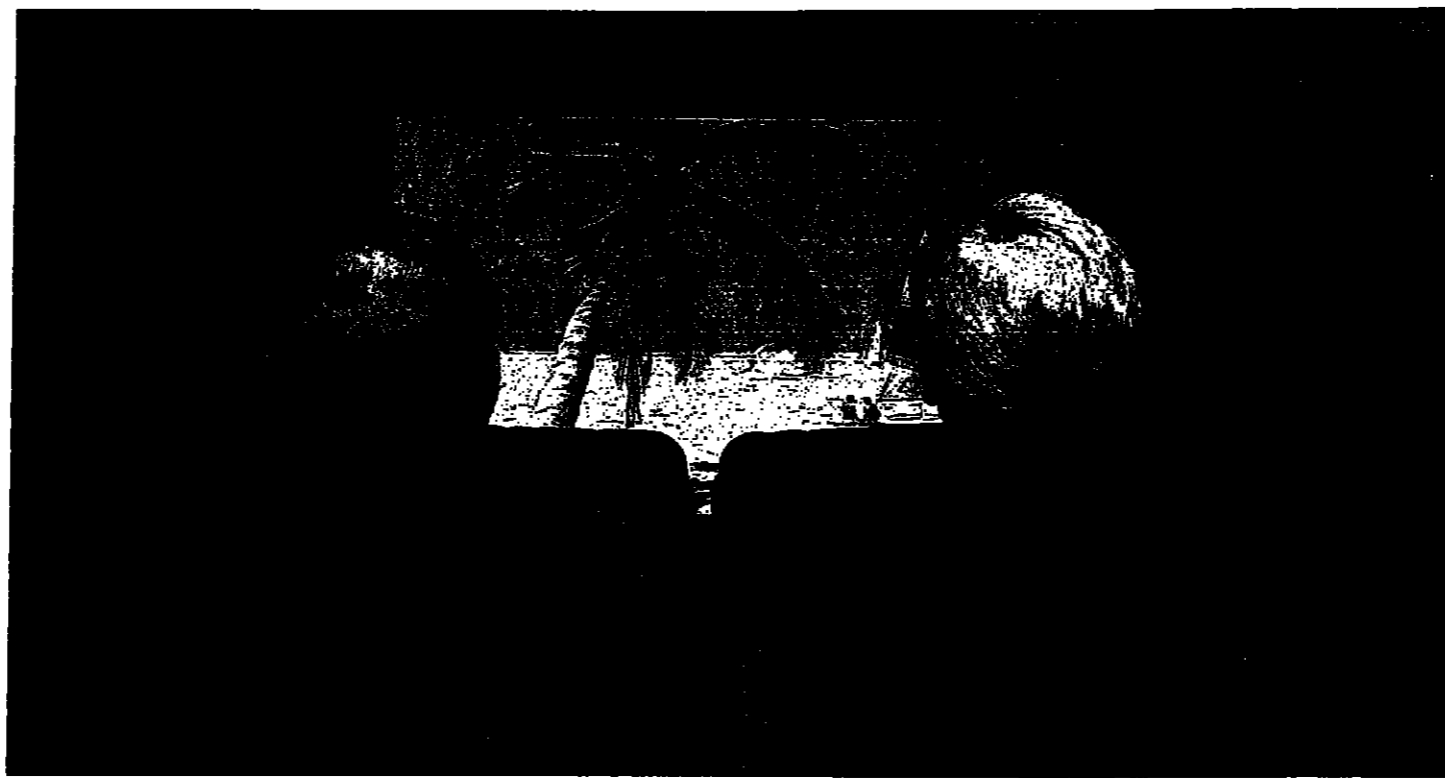
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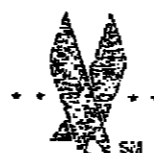
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# Grassroots movement grows as the Government salutes courage of dead teacher's wife

## Thousands back widow's call for good citizenship



Mrs Lawrence yesterday: she wants to "banish violence"

THOUSANDS of people have backed Frances Lawrence's call for a national debate about ways of tackling violence and promoting good citizenship. They expressed their support in telephone calls, faxes and letters to *The Times* and to Mrs Lawrence's home in Ealing, west London, over the past three days. Many were from concerned parents and teachers, whom Mrs Lawrence wants to see leading a nationwide grassroots movement "dedicated to healing our fractured society and banishing violence".

Lynne Drewett told how she set up a neighbourhood scheme in February to combat youth crime in Swanscombe and Greenhithe near Dartford, Kent, after her 16-year-old son was arrested with other teenagers for a petty offence. She said: "We hope Mrs Lawrence will be an inspiration to others to do something in their area."

"As a parent I wanted to help my son and teenagers like him in a practical way. We spoke to youths on the streets and the police to find out why young people were turning to crime. We then organised a summer scheme for younger children to keep them occupied during the school holidays and a drop-in centre for older ones. Unfortunately, the drop-in centre was wrecked by the very teenagers it was meant for. We are finding it a struggle to get support to continue so we welcome Mrs Lawrence's campaign. We hope that people will be encouraged to give practical and financial support to schemes like ours."

Jeanne Turner, a former teacher at an inner city school in Sheffield said that the problem of falling standards of discipline and morals in schools was partly due to the trend of older teachers being made redundant to make way for younger, cheaper staff. She suggested that one way of enhancing teachers' status — which Mrs Lawrence has called for — would be to keep older, more experienced staff.

She said: "There are few teachers in their fifties left with the expertise to encourage morality and family values in the classroom. People from my generation want to do something to help but no one wants to employ us in any position of authority because we are considered too old. I hope Mrs Lawrence's campaign can change that so that people of all ages can work together to solve these problems."

Shirley Day of Bushey, Hertfordshire said: "In recent years I have watched my brains about what I can do to help solve the problems that Mrs Lawrence talks about. Sadly, with all her grief, she has got the opportunity now to do this. Every age group has its problems — all the decent things have fallen by the wayside. We all have something to learn from this and I would like to congratulate *The Times* for conveying it in such a moving way."

## Shepherd says crusade gives edge to plan to teach morality

By DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

CITIZENSHIP lessons will be tried out in schools across the country as part of the Government's drive to promote values in the classroom. Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, said yesterday.

Mrs Shepherd said she was inspired by the example of Frances Lawrence and wanted an agreed moral code adopted by schools.

Mrs Shepherd said she would consider accelerating the work of the National Forum for Values in Education on preparing a code after speaking to the widow of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death as he intervened to protect a pupil attacked outside his school.

"The forum was set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to consult widely on ten new "commandments" for the classroom and plans for citizenship lessons when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

Mrs Shepherd said: "I spoke to Mrs Lawrence on Saturday and I am well aware that she wants a debate and not a manifesto at this stage. We both know more than education is involved. SCAA will implement a two-year pilot of guidance materials in preparation for the next review of the curriculum. It seems to me a very great deal of the work of the authority answers a lot of the points raised by Mrs Lawrence and her debate will help give some urgency to its work. We will see whether we need to accelerate the work and there will be nothing placed in the way of the pilot."

Mrs Shepherd and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, appeared to try to outbid each other in their response to Mrs Lawrence's manifesto to curb violence in society. Mr Blunkett said that Labour would introduce classes in good citizenship as part of the national curriculum for primary and secondary schools.

He admitted that there were constraints in timetabling for the national curriculum, but that room should be found for civic lessons. Mr Blunkett said

the intention was "to ensure that the teaching of citizenship is central to the development of young people from the earliest possible moment". Aides said this would involve the teaching of old-fashioned "civics" — how society and government works — mixed with rights and responsibilities.

Children would be taught the basics of right and wrong and lessons could involve visits from local policemen, or other members of the local community, such as vicars. Mr Blunkett pointed out that the lessons would also fit in with Labour's plans for a

to the self, to relationships, to society and to the environment. A statement about what these values mean and how pupils can demonstrate them would form the basis of citizenship lessons, delivered through guided debate.

The authority will also propose community service for all youngsters, such as helping the elderly. Trainee teachers will be given more instruction in religious and secular moral traditions.

Mrs Shepherd said she was "very impressed" with Mrs Lawrence. "What a brave person. I imagine this is all bringing it back hideously and I hope it is helping her cope at this time. She is amazing."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said all teachers would fully support Mrs Lawrence's message, but he called for schools to take their own stand against indiscipline by expelling children who broke codes of behaviour.

He said: "I believe the time for firm action is long overdue. Schools must show by example that serious disruption and violence simply will not be tolerated." It was no accident, Mr de Gruchy said, that Philip Lawrence had found it necessary to expel 60 pupils during his brief time at St George's School, Maida Vale, west London. Others should follow his example.

Parents, as well as schools, needed to play their part and a Good Parenting Agency should be established. "A Good Parenting Agency could be charged with going out into the community to contact families and try to show them by example how their own interests would be better served by more positive and active parenting," he said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that as far as head teachers were concerned Mrs Lawrence was "pushing at an open door".

Libby Purves, page 18  
Michael Howard, page 18

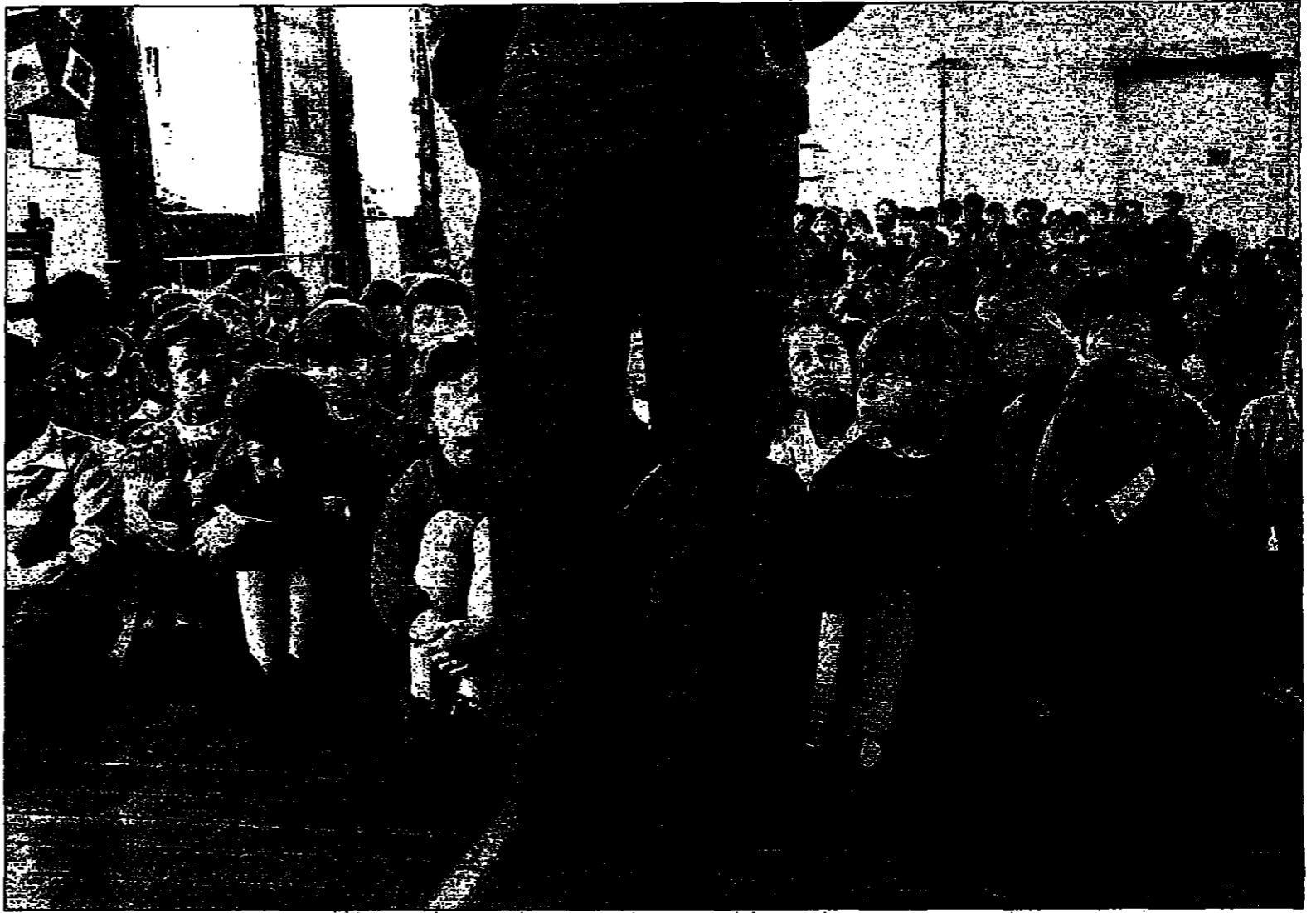


Shepherd: inspired by Frances Lawrence

national citizens' service for young people who had left school. They would help with keeping the environment clean and other community duties, such as helping the disabled and elderly.

Labour also plans to address Mrs Lawrence's specific call for improvements in teaching. Mr Blunkett has set out a series of proposals which includes the sacking of bad teachers, improving the quality of teacher-training and introducing a probationary year for new teachers.

The SCAA will begin consultation next month on a moral code centred around four key values: those related



Learning for life: children will be taught moral values and good citizenship under plans to improve standards from both major parties

## Scots address problems A slice of pizza from first day at school for polite pupils

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CHILDREN in Scotland learn the rights and responsibilities of good citizens, together with the importance of values such as respect and honesty, from the day they start school.

Guidelines published three years ago by the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum are aimed at developing positive attitudes in young people aged 5 to 14 and helping them to grow towards "effective citizenship". Teachers are asked to ensure that themes such as respect and caring for self and others, social responsibility, a commitment to learning and a sense of belonging underpin all lessons, from sport to mathematics.

Many primaries and all secondary schools also run weekly citizenship classes, known as personal and social development, in which children spend an hour learning what it means to be a right-thinking member of society.

Jean Campbell, head teacher at Glendale Primary

School in Glasgow, said: "The vast majority are good citizens but there are now lots of issues which make life more complex for young people. We have to give them strict standards of how we expect them to behave and encourage them to behave."

At Glendale, which takes children from one of Glasgow's most deprived areas, pupils tackle abstract moral issues, such as trust, honesty, respect and responsibility for their actions, through a mixture of games, role-playing and discussion.

Mrs Campbell has adopted a method known as "circle time", in which children sit in a circle to talk about a topic. They may learn about respect through discussing bullying and acting out how it feels from both sides. They then talk about feelings and are encouraged to discuss why such behaviour is not acceptable. Developing non-violent responses to problem-solving is an important part.

At Bellahouston Primary,

which has a racially mixed intake from deprived areas of greater Govan, good citizenship starts with children being given a sense of belonging to the school community. Through themed lessons spanning all curriculum subjects, they are taught that with "belonging" come responsibilities for themselves, others within the school and for the buildings.

Rewarding children for good behaviour rather than simply punishing bad behaviour is an important part of the school's ethos.

George MacBride, who runs the development classes at Govan High School, believes citizenship lessons are about empowering young people by raising their expectations, helping them to make informed choices and achieve their potential. To do this, Govan High works towards giving pupils the emotional, social and practical skills they need for adult life, as well as instilling a sense of self-respect.

PLAGUED by lack of discipline, drug abuse and violence, American schools regularly promote citizenship programmes to encourage good behaviour.

New Hampshire has led the field since the state adopted a policy advocating character and citizenship education eight years ago and made it mandatory for teachers to be trained in the topic. At first attracting controversy — parents felt it was an agenda imposed either by the religious Right or the liberal Left — the system has since become popular throughout America, across party lines.

The language of the policy in New Hampshire and many other states is intentionally broad, leaving districts to decide how they should teach values in their own schools. Some employ a system of incentives while others recognise responsible conduct by placing students on a non-academic roll of honour. In schools in Virginia, for example, children are graded in as

many as eight areas of citizenship, including responsibility, obeying rules and being truthful and courteous.

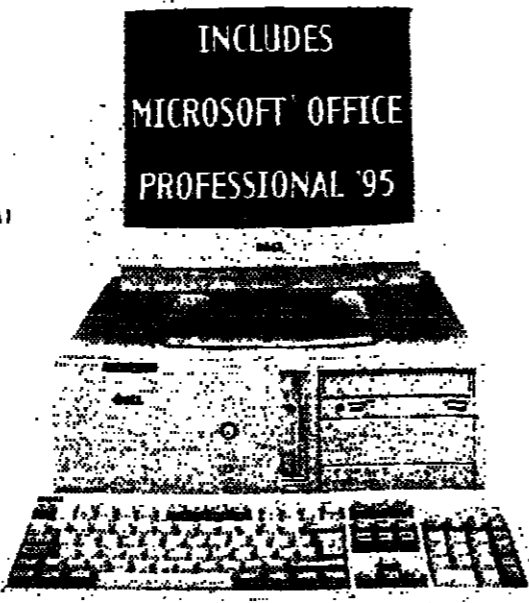
Elsewhere the reward is more tangible. Peacock Middle School in Chicago started a school lottery last year, providing tickets to all children who behaved with exceptional courtesy. The result was a 53 per cent drop in suspensions and a dramatic decline in the number of detentions meted out to students.

Reinhardt Nickisch draws three tickets, representing different age grades, and reads the winners over the school intercom. Prizes include pizzas, ice-creams and toys donated by local shops. This year a grand draw will include a stereo system and a bicycle.

"The lottery may sound like a bribe," Janet Lynch, the local guidance counsellor, said, "but it promotes good behaviour because the kids realise that bad behaviour is not getting them the attention that good behaviour does."

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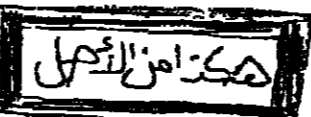
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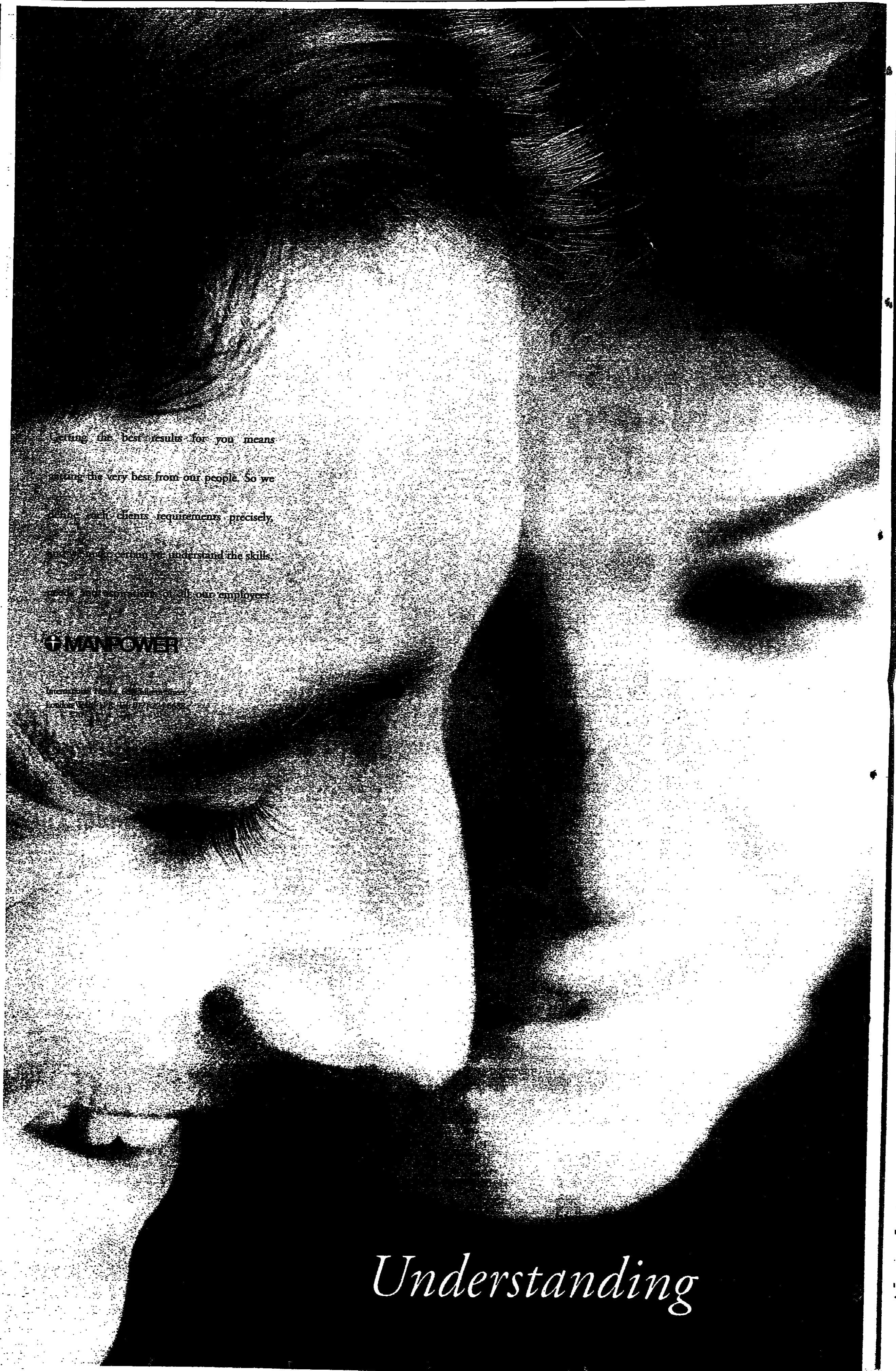


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# Scots will have to pay to see Stone of Scone in Edinburgh

By ALAN HAMILTON

VISITORS will have to pay up to £5.50 each to see the Stone of Scone, the talisman of Scottish nationhood that has lain in Westminster Abbey for 700 years, when it is placed in Edinburgh Castle next month.

As a concession to nationalist sentiment Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has agreed that entry will be free on two days each year: St Andrew's Day and a day in April before Edinburgh's tourist season starts in earnest.

At present visitors pay up to £4 to see the stone in the Royal Chapel at Westminster Abbey.

Mr Forsyth announced yesterday that the stone, a 330lb block of sandstone believed to have been the coronation chair of ancient Scottish kings, would be unveiled in its new home on November 30 - St Andrew's Day - in the same tiny room in the castle that houses the Honours of Scotland, Europe's oldest collection of crown jewels.

Mr Forsyth's decision is a



The Stone of Scone

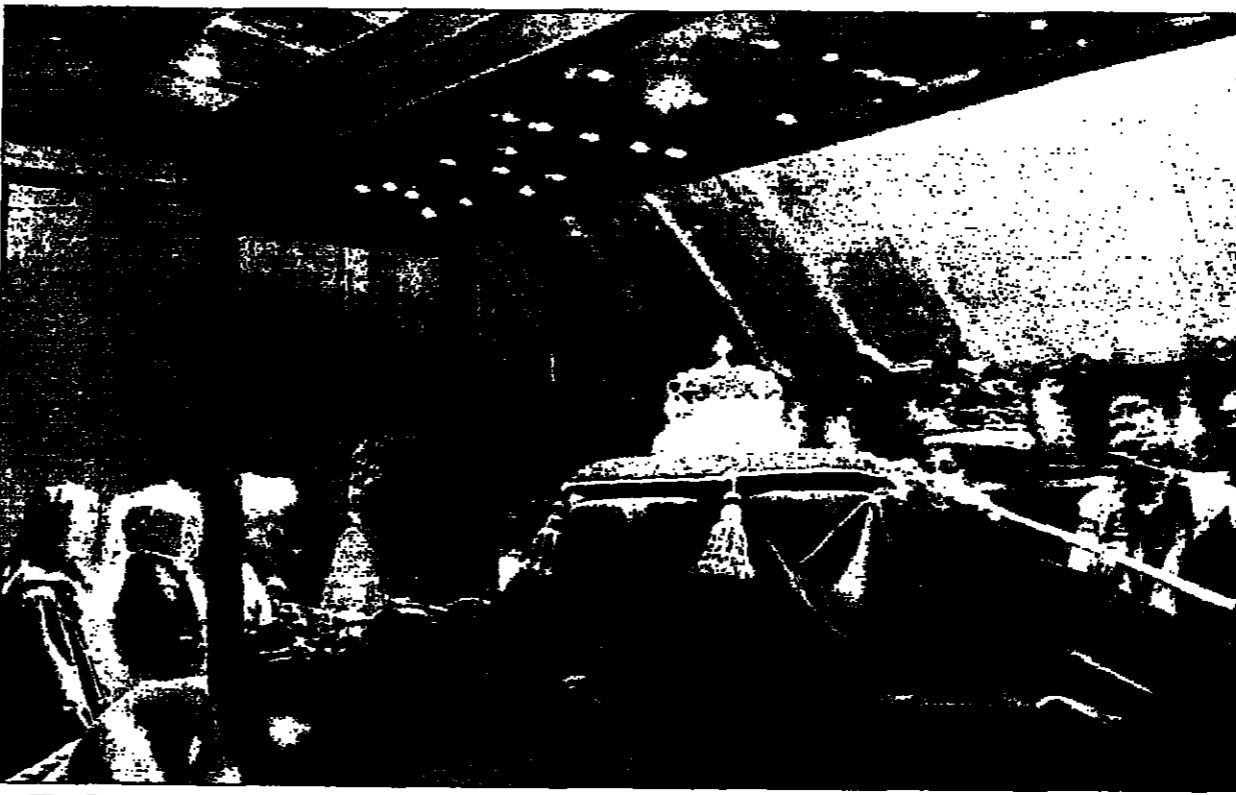
disappointment for Scone Palace, near Perth, from where the stone was removed by Edward I in 1296 to underline Scotland's failed hopes of independence. The Scottish Office said yesterday that the palace, open to the public but

still privately owned by the Earl of Mansfield, did not have the facilities or security to cope, but left open the possibility that the stone could be moved there in the future.

Edinburgh Castle, which has one million visitors a year, has no historic connection with the stone. The Scottish Office announcement yesterday said that the castle had been chosen after 113 suggestions from the public as to where the stone should be sited. The castle was the most popular; the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh was also strongly favoured.

Other contenders included the ancient abbeys of Dunfermline and Arbroath, important sites in Scottish history, and the New Arington Bar in Glasgow, where the stone is said to have rested briefly on its way from London after being stolen from Westminster Abbey by nationalist students in 1950.

George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, even suggested that the stone



The Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle, where the stone will go on display beside the Honours of Scotland

be returned to Palestine, as tradition says that it was originally the pillow on which Jacob rested his head. Much will be made of the stone's progress north from Westminster Abbey, which is giving up one of its outstanding historic relics with reluctance, but is obliged to bow to the wishes of the Queen, who has sanctioned the move. The stone will have a military escort on its mud journey north, will be feted with a ceremony as it crosses the border and be dedicated at a service in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, on St Andrew's Day.

Some Scots have condemned the return of the stone to Scotland as one of the cheapest political tricks pulled by a Tory Government in more than 16 years in power. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, said recently that it showed the Tories' approach to Scotland to be "all stunts and no substance". Roseanna Cunningham, SNP MP for Perth and Kinross, which includes

Scone, said the decision to allow two days a year free access was "a massive snub to Scots, whose property the stone is".

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, repeated demands for a Scottish parliament "and not just the historical symbols of Scotland's power".

# Pensioners inherit £5m worth of fun

By PAUL WILKINSON

PENSIONERS are to benefit from a £5 million bequest from an eccentric millionaire who died seven years ago.

Douglas Kellent, of Chester-Street, Durham, who made his fortune in coal mining, brickmaking and importing tea, left the money to a charity in the North East with instructions for it to be spent on making life brighter for the elderly of the region. He died, aged 83, in 1989 but the money was released only yesterday after the death at 81 of his widow, Gwen, last month. The couple were childless and had decided their extended family already had enough money.

George Hepburn, director of the Tyne and Wear Foundation, which will look after the money, including the £250,000 annual interest, said: "It could incorporate new centres for the elderly where there would be activities, leisure centres and arts provision. I hope it is not just spent on Zimmer frames and nursing care."

# Reluctance to sell leads to housing market stalemate

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE number of properties for sale has dropped to the lowest for eight years, frustrating people wanting to move.

A survey of the past quarter by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found that although the housing market was enjoying an upturn, owners were reluctant to put their properties on the market. Ian Perry of the RICS, which has 80,000 members, said the shortage was at its worst in the South of England but was becoming a problem elsewhere.

He said that reluctance to sell stemmed from hopes of further, sometimes over-optimistic, price rises. People willing to sell could not find a suitable property to buy.

Mr Perry said: "This stalemate in the market is exacerbated by the remnants of negative equity and the promise of windfalls next year as a result of several leading building societies converting into banks. The scarcity of property is forcing up prices and desirable properties are being sold extremely quickly, giving the false impression that a boom is imminent."

A survey by the National Association of Estate Agents found that 76 per cent of its

members said demand was outstripping supply; nearly 40 per cent of agents said they had witnessed gazumping. The worst affected areas are London and the Home Counties, where good quality family homes are routinely sold before the particulars can be printed.

Paddy Stewart Morgan, from Cluttons, said: "Within a 50-mile radius of London, demand has been exceeding supply for the past nine to twelve months, especially for character houses. Properties within the £300,000 to £400,000 bracket are in greatest demand thanks to city bonuses, the feeling that the market is on the move, and low interest rates."

The RICS survey found that the number of houses for sale was down by a third on a year earlier. More positively, Mr Perry said, prices were continuing to rise throughout the country. Four-bedroom and two to three-bedroom pre-1960 houses remain the most popular properties.

The report concludes that prices will moderate early next year and that the future growth of the housing market is now in the hands of those wishing to sell.

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# North Wales Tribunal of Inquiry into child abuse.

## Can you help?

A Tribunal investigating allegations relating to the abuse of children in care in the former county council areas of Gwynedd and Clwyd between 1974 and 1996, is being held in 1997. The Chairman invites any such persons including former residents of the homes, former foster children, families, staff and the general public to come forward with any evidence relating to the inquiry.

If you have evidence which you think might help, either from your personal experience or if you know somebody who was involved, you are invited to contact the Tribunal team by freephoning them on 0800 329321 or by writing to the following address:

The Solicitor to the Tribunal,  
PO Box 13, St. David's Park,  
Deeside CH5 3ZR

The Team will also be able to provide you with information about the procedure of the Tribunal.

Nature group seeks protection for harmless giant facing extinction in British waters

Oriental appetite for fins threatens the basking shark

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOARING demand for shark fins used in oriental cooking has led to a steep rise in the global price and fears that the basking shark could become extinct in British waters.

Government wildlife advisers are trying to have *Cetorhinus maximus* listed as a protected species amid fears that fishermen desperate to make a living as traditional fish stocks fall will target the shark to supply the lucrative Far Eastern trade.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with backing from groups including the Marine Conservation Society, is urging the Government to list the shark under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It would make the basking shark, whose numbers have been falling worldwide, the first shark to be protected by British laws. The price of

the delicacy has almost doubled to more than £28 a kilogram in just four years as demand has soared and sharks in some Far Eastern waters have been fished to the brink of extinction. Sam Polard of the Marine Conservation Society said yesterday: "We need to act now before the price goes through the roof."

The main threat facing basking sharks in this country is from Norwegian fishermen. They have a European Commission-approved quota to harpoon 300 basking sharks a year in British waters. In return, British fishermen have the right to catch a quota of white fish in Norwegian waters. Dr Clare Eno, of the marine section of the JNCC, described the size of the shark quota as "outrageous... and unsustainable". One British fisherman, based on the

Clyde, fished basking sharks but his boat was recently decommissioned. Nevertheless the experts fear that fishermen here could resume catching basking sharks at any time as the stocks of more traditional species are squeezed by overfishing and a cut in EC quotas.

"Given the state of the fishing fleet, you only need a few collapses of stocks before people might start turning to shark fins. Once that happens you will never get it stopped and the population would soon be devastated," Dr Eno said.

There is also evidence that basking sharks — at 45ft the second largest fish after the whale shark, but harmless to man — are being harassed and killed for fun in British waters. Last year a shoal sighted in Carlyon Bay, Corn-



A basking shark feeding on plankton: harmless to man, there is evidence that it is being harassed off our shores

wall, was chased by power boats and jet skiers. There were several cases of basking sharks being found dead off the Welsh and southwest English coasts with deep cuts on their heads, thought to have been caused by boat hooks used to kill the animals and tow them alongside before being dumped.

The legal listing, which has

been proposed to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, would make it illegal to hunt, harass or deliberately injure a basking shark. Dr Eno said it was the first step to getting protection for the shark across European waters.

A meeting in Birmingham later this week, organised by the Sea Life Centres, will set

up a European Elasmobranch (the class of fish including sharks) Society to further the cause of sharks generally and the basking shark in particular.

The Department of the Environment said: "We would hope to bring in an amendment to the Act in the spring. There is a groundswell of opinion in favour of listing the

basking shark." A spokesman said the views of the Scottish Office would be crucial to securing the go-ahead. A few years ago it blocked a similar move, upholding fishermen's rights over conservation interests.

A few weeks ago the basking shark was listed as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union.

'SAS man' escapes charges over book

A bestselling author who admitted his book about an SAS death squad in Ulster was fiction will not be prosecuted for wasting police time. Paul Inman, of Weston-super-Mare, Avon, was arrested by murder squad detectives after he claimed in *The Nemesis File*, written under the name Paul Bruce, he was part of a gang that killed at least 30 IRA suspects and Roman Catholics.

Group 4 deal

Group 4 has won a £49 million contract to ferry inmates to court from 16 prisons in the North of England. The contract, for seven years, is expected to save the taxpayer £25 million a year. The Prison Service said the bid "represented the best combination of service and value for money".

Walker dead

A walker who disappeared in the Austrian Alps in June has been found dead by a hunter. Chris Broome, a sound engineer from Oxfordshire, had been on a hiking trip. He is believed to have strayed from a mountain path and fallen 50 metres into a gully. An inquest will be held in Britain.

Bridlepath ban

Conservationists have won a five-year fight to ban four-wheel drive vehicles from a bridleway in Glatton, Cambridgeshire, in John Major's Huntingdon constituency. After four public inquiries and a High Court hearing the Environment Department has agreed it should not be a byway.

School eviction

A former nursing sister at Harrow School has failed to halt her eviction from the flat she shares with her husband at the school. Marilyn and Roy Edey had asked the Court of Appeal to block a possession order until after her unfair dismissal case in December.

Goalposts death

Emma Barter, 2, died in hospital after a set of goalposts fell on her as she played with friends on a playing field in Ipswich, Suffolk. The children had gone to the field in the dark after a football match while the teams were preparing for a social evening.

Parent power

Parents of pupils at Cheltenham College have called a meeting with members of the school's governing body to demand the reinstatement of the headmaster. Peter Wilkes, 55, who was forced to resign when the school slipped in the examination league tables.

Blind give their eye teeth for new sight

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURGEON plans to give a new twist to the old adage, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. He aims to renew the sight of two blind patients by transplanting modified teeth into their eyes.

Christopher Liu, a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Sussex Eye Hospital in Brighton, said the technique involved removing a tooth from the patient, drilling a hole through it and using it to support a plastic lens. The operation is suitable for patients who have damaged corneas but who are unsuitable for corneal transplants.

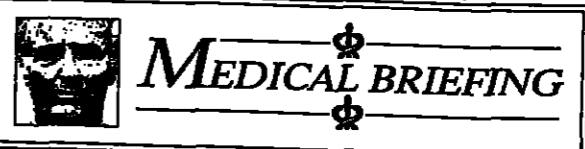
The tooth is removed from the patient together with a piece of bone. It is shaped to provide a rectangular base, and drilled. The modified tooth, holding the plastic window, is inserted for at least two months into an incision made in the cheek just below the eye.

"This is to allow it to recover from the shock and make sure that all is well," Mr Liu said. The modified tooth is then placed in the eye after room has been made by removing the existing lens and some internal structure.



The Duke of Edinburgh after his recent surgery

The outdoor life leaves its mark



THE skin of the Duke of Edinburgh's nose, before his recent surgery, would have made an excellent topic for discussion on a teaching ward round.

Changes in the skin can affect any part of an adult's body at any time, but are particularly common in fair-skinned people who have been exposed to the sun. The skin of the face and forearms is particularly vulnerable to skin cancers. Because they wear skirts, women may have suspicious lesions on their lower legs. The Duke's case illustrates all the risk factors: he is fair-skinned, lives an outdoor life and served in the Navy in the Mediterranean and the Far East, where the sun reflected off the sea is particularly damaging.

Most skin lesions removed are benign — as is assumed to be the case with the Duke's. Even in most of those cases in which lesions are cancerous, the malignancy is of a low order. If there is any doubt, an area is removed for study. Basal cell carcinomas,

known as rodent ulcers, are common around the face. Sometimes they appear as a small scaly red ulcer that won't heal, at other times like a pearly seed buried in the skin. They never spread to distant parts of the body. If they are carefully excised, the cure is complete. If they are allowed to grow, it can be impossible to remove them, and they can eat away the face. Epitheliomas, the standard skin cancers that appear in the skin of people subjected to too much sun, are usually caught at a very early stage and normally respond to non-surgical treatment.

A malignant melanoma — a cancerous mole — is highly lethal if neglected. Patients and doctors look for changes in size and colour of the mole, an irregular outline and a patchy uneven colour. Later, the mole may ulcerate, bleed, itch or become very raised.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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AS man' escapes charges er book

# Lost Gandhi papers shed light on months before his murder

BY JOHN VINCENT

IN A previously unknown collection of handwritten papers, Mahatma Gandhi lectures Mountbatten, accuses Churchill of disservice to India and laments the tragedy befalling his beloved country.

The dusty manuscripts, which detail the last eventful six months of the Indian leader's life, include the backs of old letters, envelopes and circulars and are written in pedantic, schoolmasterly English. The archive, which surfaced after languishing in a cupboard in Madras for almost half a century, has been valued at up to £800,000 and comes up for auction at Phillips next month.

After Gandhi's assassination by a Hindu fanatic in January 1948, drafts of speeches and letters by the man venerated as a moral teacher, reformer and dedicated patriot were safely stored by his devoted chief secretary V. Kalyanram, now in his seventies. Exactly when Mr Kalyanram obtained the papers is not clear, but he seems to have been given them for safekeeping either just before or just after Gandhi's death. Proceeds from the sale of the three loosely bound volumes will go towards the construction of a Hindu temple.

They contain drafts of important letters, magazine articles and "Monday speeches", delivered by a follower

*my statue!  
There is a talk in Bombay  
of spending ten lacs of  
rupees on erecting my  
statue on a public site.  
I have received  
several letters criticiz-*

The start of a note about the "extravagant" cost of a proposed statue

of Gandhi's day of silence. Many of the leader's more famous utterances on Indian independence are included, as well as his vow "to do or die" in bringing peace to Delhi.

The archive covers his last fast, the days leading up to his assassination and the prologue to his last will and testament. The letters and speeches, complete with crossings-out and alterations, are written in English in a plain notebook or on any paper to hand.

In a ten-page letter to Earl Mount-

batten of Burma seven weeks before independence, Gandhi writes: "I pointed out the initial mistake of the British being party to splitting India into two. It is not possible to undo the mistake. [But] the very admirable doctrine of fair play... demands that I do not help the mistaken party to fancy that the mistake was no mistake."

There is also the original draft for a speech defending the newly independent India from attacks by Winston Churchill over the scale of butchery in

the country. Churchill was a great man, one of the "blue blood" of England, he said. But, he added: "Mr Churchill had rendered a disservice to the nation of which he was a great servant. If he knew the fate that would befall India after she became free from the British yoke, did he for a moment stop to think that the blame belonged to the builders of the Empire?"

Many of the documents reflect Gandhi's horror at the violence between Hindus and Muslims that disfigured independence. After an exhaustive tour of Delhi, he described the new capital as "a city of the dead".

In a speech to workers in a Delhi cloth mill in 1947, Gandhi says that he would rather die than witness further violence. Writing in the third person, he says: "He had made his final choice. He had no desire to live to see the ruin of India through fratricide. His incessant prayer was that God would remove him before any such calamity descended upon their fair land."

Felix Pryor, Phillips's manuscripts consultant, spent a month sifting through the documents, deciphering the crabbled handwriting and putting the scripts in chronological order and historical context. He said: "It is difficult to over-emphasize the importance of this archive. It is like stumbling across Shakespeare's original draft for King Lear."



A portrait of Gandhi taken in 1947, estimated to fetch £1,000 to £1,500 at auction

## Yachtsman faces trial for ramming German U-boat

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE MASTER of a yacht faces court action after his vessel accidentally rammed a German U-boat in Portsmouth Harbour. Wob Gerretsen's crew could see only the top of the submarine and, in the dusk, thought it was a buoy.

Mr Gerretsen injured his arm in the impact, although his 50ft yacht, *Harvest*, escaped serious damage and none of his crew of six were injured. The German government says the 159ft U22 submarine sustained about £20,000 of damage in the incident.

Mr Gerretsen, a Dutch national who works in Britain, was sailing *Harvest* to Holland when the collision occurred. The submarine was entering Portsmouth Harbour for the Navy Days festival.

Mr Gerretsen said the main structure of the submarine did not appear damaged but believed the high cost of repairs could be because the bow of his yacht sliced into a sonar dome.

He is being prosecuted by the Ministry of Defence for failing to keep a proper lookout and is due to appear before magistrates at Portsmouth on November 25. If convicted he

could face up to two years in prison. He could also face a private action from the German Government for compensation after the accident on the evening of May 24.

Mr Gerretsen, 52, of Chobham, Surrey, claimed that the submarine had not been properly lit. "Visibility was very poor at the time and the crew saw a black object which they didn't recognise," he said. "They thought it was a buoy and tried to avoid it but when they got closer it turned out to be a German submarine."

The submarine was about five to six feet out of the water, with the tower about 10ft above the waterline, Mr Gerretsen said.

"It was all painted black and submarines are made not to be seen. It was too late to take any action. All I could do was brace myself. They claimed they had their lights on, but I don't think they had - that is something only the courts can decide."

A spokesman for the military department of the German Embassy in London said that if the court case proved Mr Gerretsen was to blame his Government would seek compensation.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including the word 'e d' and other characters.



ds cure' scientist may face charges

Medical research... 'miracle drug'... 'treat the late'... 'placed under'... 'investigation'... 'manipulate'



Chirac will address the Palestinian legislature

### Israelis frosty to Chirac

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JACQUES CHIRAC, the French President, arrived in Israel yesterday to a hostile reception from many right-wing supporters of the Government who dismissed him as a blatantly pro-Arab politician who had in the past sanctioned the sale of a nuclear reactor to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The official reception was correct but cool, with members of the Cabinet ruling out any question of the European Union dispatching its own Middle East envoy, as M. Chirac had earlier advocated. "We reject it completely," David Levy, the Foreign Minister, said.

Among those boycotting sections of M Chirac's two-day stay was Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee and a member of the ruling Likud party. "The French President is hostile to Israel," he declared. "He is a prominent pro-Arab statesman, who called Saddam Hussein 'the Arab de Gaulle'."

M Chirac's last-minute decision to reverse his earlier refusal to visit the Knesset — although he will not to speak there — when tomorrow he will become the first foreign head of state to address the 88-seat Palestinian legislature in Ramallah, failed to mollify many Israelis.

Moshe Peled, the Deputy Education Minister, announced that he would walk out of the Knesset plenum the moment that M Chirac took his seat in protest against what he claimed was a slight both to the parliament and to the state of Israel.

## Jailed star witness says First Lady to be indicted

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN HIS first interview from a prison cell, the Arkansas banker who helped to convict three former associates of President Clinton and his wife Hillary, claimed yesterday that the First Lady faced certain indictment after the American elections.

David Hale, the star prosecution witness in the Whitewater hearings and a former Arkansas political insider, said it was a "certainty" that Mrs Clinton would be charged by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, once the cloud of partisan politics had lifted after the polls in November. Mr Clinton could also face charges.

"I can tell you that Hillary is going to be indicted on 13 to 18 counts involving obstruction of justice, lying to federal investigators, and misleading federal regulators," Hale told *The Wall Street Journal*, the Clintons' journalistic nemesis. "I believe some of the charges will relate to obstruction at the White House."

Hale, who is serving a 28-month sentence, predicted that Mr Clinton subsequently would immediately pardon both his wife and Jim Guy Tucker, the Arkansas Governor convicted on Whitewater charges.

Susan McDougal, a former Clinton partner in the failed Arkansas land deal who is serving a two-year sentence, would not be granted an amnesty, the former banker said. The only witness to have claimed first-hand knowledge of the President's involvement in any crime, Hale has alleged that Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make a \$300,000 (£188,000) loan to Mrs McDougal in 1983. The White House has consistently described the allegation as a "bunch of bull".

Hale is still viewed as a credible witness in many quarters. In more than two years as a co-operative witness he has spent hundreds of hours with Mr Starr and his colleagues and is thought to know much about their evidence. His statements appear to confirm a web of deceit that clung to the Clintons in Arkansas and followed them through the early years in Washington. He described the First Couple as the Harry and Harriet Houdini of American politics, a pair of master escape artists.

Hale claimed that Mrs Clinton, as a lawyer in Arkansas, drafted a document that was used to deceive bank inspectors and divert a payment of \$300,000 to one of her partner's relatives. Prosecutors are investigating the so-called Castle Grande deal in which Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of Whitewater, is said to have made loans to Seth Ward. Mr Ward's son-in-law, Webster Hubbell, was a Clinton law partner who is now languishing in prison for fraud.

Hale said Mrs Clinton, Mr Ward and Jim McDougal, the owner of Madison who has also been found guilty of fraud, all conspired to mislead federal regulators in the deal. He said Mr McDougal, whose sentencing has been delayed until after the elections and who is said to be co-operating with the Whitewater inquiry, "has very significant information to offer about these transactions".

BOB DOLE, the Republican candidate for the US presidency, has called for a fundamental overhaul of the American system of financing election campaigns — including a ban on donations from companies, unions, wealthy individuals and foreigners.

His move came in the wake of disclosures that the Democrats had taken \$700,000 (£440,000) in contributions from Indonesian and Korean companies. John Huang, the party fund-raiser responsible for the contributions, was removed from his duties on Friday while the foreign dona-

tions are investigated; some have been returned. Democrats have replied that Mr Dole is an unlikely champion of electoral reform, having raised more than \$100 million in his political lifetime from the donors he now criticises. They also note that the Republican Party has returned a \$15,000 donation from a Canadian company.

The vulnerability of both parties to these charges emphasises why Mr Dole's move will have widespread appeal. Spending by both parties in this election, the most expensive in US history, has prompted accusations that campaign finance rules, drawn up two decades ago after Watergate, are brazenly flouted.

*The Washington Post* has called the present system a "charade" and a "fig leaf", and claimed both candidates have made "a final mockery of the campaign laws". Common Cause, a pressure group, has asked Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to appoint an independent counsel to investigate spending by both the Dole and Clinton teams, and mount criminal prosecutions for any violations.



Hillary Clinton, accused by Hale of conspiring to deceive bank inspectors

## Dole urges funding ban

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

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## Hunt vote threatens Wild West lifestyle

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE old Wild West trapper of popular imagination, with coyote fur cap, toothless grin and bloody mitt, may find his way of life changed for good after the US election.

Animal rights protesters have succeeded in placing anti-field sports motions before the electorates of several states on November 5. Voters in Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Michigan, Oregon and Massachusetts will all have the chance to express their preferences on certain types of hunting at the same time as choosing between Bill Clinton and Robert Dole.

The motions represent a threat to a cherished way of life in the American West, where hundreds of thousands of people are preparing for the start of the season this coming weekend. Jim Posewitz, 61, a Montana wildlife authority, yesterday admitted that field sports fans in the US need to arm themselves, politically speaking, against the "antis".

"These votes will be a good wake-up call for us," said Mr Posewitz. "Hunting in America has no regard for social status or wealth," said Mr Posewitz. "Wildlife belongs to everyone, regardless of land ownership."

The hunting vote concentrates on rural pursuits which hunters know can be hard to defend in front of city dwellers trapping, poisoning and bear-baiting. The proposers of the votes argue that these practices are cruel. Farmers reply that traps are often the only way of protecting livestock from attacks by cougar, lynx and coyote. They add that wild animals such as the beaver, while photogenic, can cause widespread natural damage unless numbers are checked.

Mr Posewitz says that going out to hunt for supper is still widespread in his home state of Montana. "Half the households around here have a hunter," he said. "In my family of four, 80 per cent of our meat is wild. I get two deer, one elk and one antelope a year, and that pretty much does us, apart from a few chickens we buy."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Belgians hold more protests

Brussels: Thousands protested again yesterday over official bungling in Belgium's child murder case as the Government began drafting reforms, including an end to the appointment of judges based on party allegiance (Charles Bremner writes).

In half a dozen towns, people stopped work in anger over "state indifference" to a paedophile ring said to have been led by Marc Dutroux. The protests, which were small in comparison with Sunday's "White March" in Brussels, signal continuing anger over what the political establishment concedes is a failure of the country's institutions. **Leading article, page 19**

## Ortega defiant

Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Party Alliance claimed victory in Nicaragua's presidential election as early results showed him well ahead. But Sandinista rival Daniel Ortega refused to concede.

## Mayor killed

Paris: Ali Boucetta, the Mayor of Algiers, was reported to have died in the Algerian capital, apparently hit by a stray bullet from a gun battle between Muslim guerrillas and security forces. (Reuter)

## Nobel ban

Manila: José Ramos Horta, the East Timor Nobel Prize winner, will be barred from the Philippines during next month's summit of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation leaders, a Manila official said.

## Landsbergis win

Vilnius: Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian independence leader rejected in 1992, has made a comeback. His Homeland Union claimed 26 per cent, with a third of Sunday's votes counted. (Reuter)

## Fugitive shot

Athens: Pavlos Keremidis, 37, one of Greece's most wanted criminals, died in a hail of gunfire when he tried to throw a grenade at police who cornered him in a hospital emergency room here. (AFP)

**Cathy waves goodbye to water retention**

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TIMES 22/10



INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



ARTS Picasso's portraits: how the artist took his revenge PAGES 38-40



LAW The problems of protecting women from stalkers PAGES 41-43



SPORT Sutton touches new heights in Chicago PAGES 47-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1996

Deutsche Telekom float could reap £400m for Britons

By OLIVER AUGUST BRITISH investors are set to make a profit of up to £400 million from the flotation of Deutsche Telekom...

firmly convinced that this price range very closely corresponds to the market's expectations... The final share price is likely to be more towards the top end of the range than the lower...

market in Deutsche shares. Around two thirds of the issue will be placed in Germany and 13 to 18 per cent has been earmarked for the Americas...

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING.

Clarke and CBI unite to revive PFI

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT THE Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday struck a deal with the Confederation of British Industry to invigorate the much criticised private finance initiative...



Heads of the Canary Wharf companies went for an unusual lunchtime stroll to mark the final link in the construction of the £2.5 billion Jubilee Line extension tunnel...

Pearson shares leap ahead despite BSkyB bid denial

By PAUL DURMAN SHARES in Pearson leapt by 33.2p yesterday as the stock market had its first chance to react to reports that BSkyB was planning a takeover of the media conglomerate...

FT-SE 100 soars after Wall St cheer

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT SHARE prices in London enjoyed their third consecutive day of gains to close at another record. The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares finished just a whisker shy of its best-ever level...

Racing Green founder sells to Burton for £19m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM DAVID KRANTZ made his second fortune yesterday, pocketing about £15 million from the sale to Burton of the Racing Green home shopping business...

three months with Racing Green, which specialises in selling casual wear. He will then act as a consultant. Burton said Racing Green will complement the Innovations mail order business...

street retailing accounts for around one third of its £18 million annual sales. Andrew Higginson, finance director of Burton, said the group wants to develop Racing Green as a high street brand...

Advertisement for John Charcol, featuring a large image of a man and text about mortgage services with interest rates of 6.99% and 7.4% APR.





□ Deutsche Telekom's easy lesson □ Will the Chancellor do his cut-price duty? □ Out of Africa with Algy Cluff

# Dialling an instant profit

THE Germans may be rather better at making cars or kitchens, but by jingo, we can give them a few lessons in flogging off the family silver. The Deutsche Telekom float is heavily modelled on the huge British privatisations of the past decade, one of the first of which was our own dear BT in 1984.

The parallels with BT are even stronger, because DT is being sold into a similar maelstrom of uncertainty. BT shares have underperformed the market since 1993 because of a harsh regulatory regime designed to allow competitors to take a larger share of the market. Germany may shortly also have to open up its wholesale phone market to competition.

The risk-averse Germans, with bitter memories of the war and before, have never been keen on equities. Smaller investors go for bonds, certain the Bundesbank will safeguard their value by keeping inflation low and the mark high. Real money goes into property. There are several reasons why this should change. Like France, Germany suffers from having a mass of unmodernised middle-ranking companies, the so-called Mittelstand, generally family-controlled and preferring to stay that way and shunning equity capital. Modernisation will require outside investors to come

in. Second, chronic pensions underfunding will require a higher-risk, higher-return approach to investment for old age in future, which means equities.

The British approach to privatisation is to undervalue the shares from the outset and add a few bells and whistles in the form of huge dividends to persuade the private punter, who gets priority anyway. This deprives the institutions and makes them chase the shares in the after-market, so ensuring a healthy premium in first trading. DT's advisers have not so much taken a leaf out of this book, they have borrowed the whole library. The shares, at the top of their indicative price range, offer a gross yield approaching 6 per cent, and there are additional discounts to private investors. The price should rise by as much as 30 per cent on the first day of dealing.

The company will make up 5 per cent of the German share index. "Anyone found by their investors to have missed it will be nailed to the wall," said one Frankfurt fund manager. This is the classic self-fulfilling proph-

esy, and DT shares are the closest thing yet to a certain profit, an even better bet short term than those earlier British privatisations.

But this will tempt some private investors to sell and bank the cost of next year's holiday early. The price may not hold; it all depends on the legal moves by competitors in Brussels and how well they can be resisted. For investors outside Germany, the value of their investment can only be protected if the German authorities can be persuaded to drag their feet and keep DT in the dark ages. Hardly *vorsprung durch technik*, is it?

## Will liquid assets help canny Ken?

IT is hard to imagine any politician could be so cynical as to cut taxes deliberately so close to an election in an attempt to sway the opinions of the electorate, and even harder to believe the electorate would fall for it. But it is being whispered that Kenneth Clarke might be contemplating so monstrous an



action in next month's Budget. Nothing significant, not income tax cuts, of course — they are already in the bag. A penny off to 23p in the pound, appears to be the general reckoning, and it could hardly be much less than that, could it? No, the tax cuts being whispered are off the price of liquor, what used to be called the working man's pint and must in these times also take in the odd glass of Chardonnay for his boss. Some in the drinks industry believe Mr Clarke might be tempted to cut a couple of pence off each, in the hope that the resulting tide of public euphoria might be enough to sweep him back to Number 11. The City doesn't believe this, and a weekend study by UBS,

the broker, forecast increases on beer and wine in line with inflation. If Mr Clarke does decide to cut duty, it will have had little to do with the ritual pre-Budget submissions from the drinks lobby. Yesterday was Trafalgar Day, and a scattering of pubs across the country with suitably patriotic names were offering beer at prices available in France, where duty is 26p a pint less. As part of the same last-minute lobbying, the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association is to see the Chancellor this week. The same arguments will be trotted out about the cost to jobs of the cross-Channel booze cruise and the inequities of being able to buy lousy French beer for less than good British ale.

No one in the drinks industry seriously believes the Chancellor will see the light and allow duty to fall to Continental levels overnight — the health lobby would never stand for it, for one thing. The industry every year merely hopes to limit the upward rise in duty and a standstill, as in 1995, generally counts as a victory. The decision to cut a penny off a pint, as an example,

would take about £100 million off tax revenues. If and when they come to buy your vote, at least you know now what it is worth.

## Algy on the joys of Zaire

IF timing is all, then Algy Cluff's timing could not have been worse. Yesterday his Cluff Mining, for reasons that are not entirely clear, arranged a briefing for City fund managers and analysts about the joys of investing in Zaire. A couple of days previously, this huge state in western Africa, rich in terms of mineral wealth and poor even by African standards, had seen the outbreak of civil war.

Visiting the UK and talking to the City was the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo. He is not to be confused with President Mobutu, currently in Switzerland, convenient for him should he ever wish to count those numbered accounts, even if the state of his health is uncertain.

In a recent study on parts of the world where inward investment is endangered by corrup-

tion or high credit risk, Zaire failed even to make the list. There is not enough business there. The country is the original kleptocracy, where corruption, embezzlement and theft are the normal methods for the exchange of goods. Outside firms forced to work there tell tales of illegal dealing on the currency markets to ensure their workforce can be paid at all, such is the chaos in the banking system. And don't even try to use the telephones.

Free elections are promised next year, which is when free elections take place in Zaire — always — next year. Someone, somehow, is going to find a way of liberating the enormous wealth of countries like Zaire without too much of it sticking to the local apparatus. But one feels it may not be Algy Cluff.

## Wages of fear

PROPOSALS to make "ageism" an offence would seem to miss the point. There is little use in creating yet another segment of aggrieved litigants to clog up industrial tribunals. The usual reason older employees are discriminated against or replaced with their younger equivalents is simple. Having mortgages, children and other encumbrances, they are more likely to demand a living wage.



Rufus Bond Gunning, left, and Richard Williams, finance director, have pushed the button for a £22 million placing

## Provend to make market debut

PROVEND, one of Britain's largest vending machine companies, is coming to the Stock Exchange in a placing that is expected to value the firm at £22 million. Rufus Bond Gunning, the managing director, said that the company hopes to raise £10 million from the flotation in order to reduce debt and fuel its acquisition power. He added that Provend had been approached by smaller companies and was already in the process of making a medium-sized acquisition. Formed from a buyout from Sketchley in 1991, Provend now runs 15,000 vending machines across the country, 7,000 of which are also under further contracts for cleaning and filling. It also runs a range of "automated staff restaurants", where complete meals are purchased through the machines in a staff canteen that can stay open for 24 hours. Provend currently owes £4.02 million through bank borrowings and loan stock. The company aims to reduce gearing to 10 per cent after the flotation. Mr Bond Gunning was recruited by Sketchley to resuscitate its machine vending arm, which lost £6.8 million in 1990. After the buyout, backed by Candover and ECI, Provend returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £1.21 million in the year to June 30, on sales of £41.5 million. While his post-flotation shareholding has not been settled, Mr Bond Gunning is expected to become a paper millionaire.

## Greycoat attacks 'crazy' sale plan

GREYCOAT, the property company under attack from one of its largest shareholders, said yesterday that it was "crazy" to suggest selling off its £500 million portfolio of central London properties. Funds managed by Brian Myerson's Active Value Advisors are pressing Greycoat to sell its portfolio of investments — effectively winding up the company. Greycoat was forced yesterday to call an extraordinary meeting, which is likely to be held late next month, to allow shareholders to debate this proposal. Peter Thornton, Greycoat's managing director, said the threat from Active Value was "an unwelcome and costly distraction". He added: "It's crazy to start talking about what will effectively be a fire sale of our properties in a rising market."

# Happy £90m return for Birthdays group

RON WOOD, a former audit clerk who founded the Birthdays greeting card business, has sold his company to a buy-in team backed by Schroders and Prudential for £90 million. Mr Wood, who set up Ron Wood Greeting Cards Holdings in 1969, gained £45 million from selling the bulk of his majority stake, and has agreed to re-invest £15 million of the proceeds for a 30 per cent share in the new company. Bryan Robson, the former Manchester United player, was one of the original shareholders in the company, and is understood to have sold his 2 per cent stake. It would have been worth £1.8 million. Schroder Ventures and Prudential Venture Managers have invested £15 million each in the buyout, and will share a 55 per cent share in the new company. It will be renamed Birthdays, after the brand name of the cards. The company, based in Bury, Manchester, owns 330 shops and runs 50 franchise outlets. Over the last 25 years, it has become the market leader in greeting cards, giftwraps and tags. It also houses a wholesale division, which supplies confectioners, tobacconists and newsagents. In the year to end-June 1996, the company's operating profits were £11 million on turnover of £99.3 million. The buyout team is led by John Lovering, who resigned as chief operating officer of Tarmac last year to pursue a £400 million buyout bid for the company's housebuilding division. The offer, also backed by Schroders and Prudential, was eventually beaten by Wimpey in a straight asset swap. Since then, Mr Lovering, who was also a former finance director of Sears, has been living in The Netherlands and looking to join another management buyout. He was recommended by Schroders for the job, and will now return to Britain to work full time as Birthdays' executive chairman. Mr Wood will remain as a consultant to the company, but has resigned from the board. The remainder of its management structure will remain intact, and a commercial director will be recruited. Mr Lovering said yesterday that he hopes to open up to 150 more outlets in the UK. He believed that Mr Robson, now manager of Middlesbrough, became involved with the company after getting to know Mr Wood in Manchester. Schroders hopes to float the company on the stock market in less than three years.

## BP signs \$2.5bn deal in China

BP Chemicals has signed a \$2.5 billion joint venture agreement with Hanghai Petrochemical Co to produce ethylene in China. The agreement represents the largest commitment made by BP in China and will be formed on an equity basis, with BP providing cash and technology and SPC contributing existing chemical plants. John Browne, chief executive of BP, said yesterday: "This venture will bring enduring benefits to China as well as deepening BP's position as a significant investor in one of the world's most dynamic economies." The project will have capacity to produce 650,000 tonnes of ethylene a year. SPC is China's largest single petrochemical enterprise and the country's ninth largest industrial concern. It is also China's largest stock available for foreign investment, with a market capitalisation of about \$2 billion.

## News Corp condemns raid

THE News Corporation yesterday moved to criticise the Israeli income tax authorities after reports at the weekend that the offices of News Datacom Research Ltd, a subsidiary company of News Datacom Ltd, had been raided. News Corp, the owner of both companies and the parent company of The Times, said it had been assured as recently as three weeks ago by the public and extreme action undertaken on October 20, 1996," said the statement. Neither NDRL nor its parent has produced cumulative operating profits prior to its financial year ending on June 30 so there was no question of tax evasion. News Corp believes the investigation is being driven by an ex-employee and says it has "nothing to hide".

## Upton's first profit since 1989

UPTON & SOUTHERN, the Teesside department stores group, yesterday reported its first profit since 1989. The company, which put the Reject Shop into receivership last year, made a pre-tax profit of £307,000 on sales of £8.95 million, in the year to July 27. Last year, it made a loss of £9.59 million on sales of £30.4 million. No dividend is to be paid on the ordinary shares. Uptons, whose chairman is Ronald Trenter, bought the Reject Shop for £2.3 million in 1994 and put it into receivership 15 months later, after ringfencing its department stores. The group's E Upton & Sons division, which operates three department stores and three smaller stores in the North East of England, had a like-for-like sales increase of 5.6 per cent during the year. In the first 11 weeks of the current year, like-for-like sales are 13 per cent ahead on the same time last year.

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Wall St leads London to another record close

FUELLED by another record-breaking run on Wall Street, share prices on the London stock market rose to their highest levels ever.



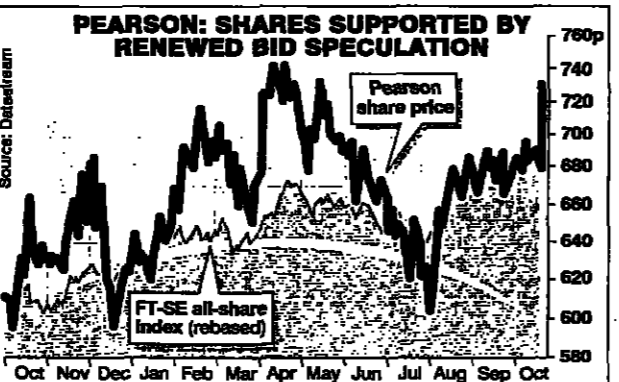
Marjorie Scardino and Dennis Stevenson, deputy chairman of Pearson, 33 1/2p higher on bid speculation

Legal & General 9 1/2p higher at 341 1/2p. Oil companies continued to rise on the back of the strong price of crude on world markets with BP up 9p at 687 1/2p.

ted in an £30 million deal failed. Some upbeat comments from BZW lifted Grand Metropolitan 7 1/2p to 495p.

Brokers in the Square Mile are convinced Marjorie Scardino, the new chief executive, will have to act fast and restructure Pearson's vast array of interests if she wants to prevent a break-up bid at some stage.

Bradstreet forecasts a buoyant time for retailers in the run-up to Christmas. NatWest Securities, the broker, has also been urging a switch from industrials to consumer stocks.



Stirling Group has also appointed a new broker, Bell Lawrie White. The price finished 1/2p lighter at 42 1/2p.

Table with columns for COCIDA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION. Includes prices for various commodities.

Table with columns for ICS-LOR (London Oil), GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. Includes prices for oil, grain, and metals.

Table with columns for LIFE OPTIONS, listing various financial products and their prices.

Table with columns for MONEY RATES (%), listing interest rates for various currencies and terms.

Table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE 250, Three Month Euro Yen, Long Gilt, Japanese Govt Bond, German Govt Bond, Three month ECU, Euro Swiss Franc, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond.

Table with columns for EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%), listing deposit rates for various currencies.

Table with columns for GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co), listing prices for gold, silver, and platinum.

Table with columns for MAJOR INDICES, listing New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and other market indices.

Table with columns for OTHER LISTINGS, listing shares like Altech, Charles Taylor, Cruden Bay, etc.

Table with columns for RISES, listing shares like Country Gds, Danke Be Sys, etc.

Table with columns for OTHER LISTINGS, listing shares like Argentina peso, Australia dollar, etc.

Table with columns for FTSE VOLUMES, listing trading volumes for various indices.

Table with columns for MID RATES FOR OCT 21, listing exchange rates for various currencies.

TEMPUS Too much in the barrel. OIL COMPANY shares look expensive, buoyed by oil price expectations. Includes a line chart showing share prices.

Burton Group BURTON is being coy about its plans in home shopping, doubtless for good commercial reasons.

Barclays FILING share certificates is the sort of boring business that would suit a clearing bank.

Greycoat ACTIVE Value Advisors, one of the City's busiest agents provocateurs, has secured an immediate return from its trouble-making at Greycoat.

Not a bad day's work for the cost of a press release and a letter to Greycoat's chairman.

Large table with columns for WALL STREET, listing various US stocks and their prices.

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Green erases Black memory

DAVID KRANTZ, the owner of Racing Green, which yesterday announced it was being bought by Burton Group for £19 million, already had October 21 etched on his memory. On that day nine years ago, Blazer, the chain of menswear stores he had founded, was due to be floated. The intervention of Black Monday on October 19 put a stop to all that and sent nine months of planning down the drain.

Yesterday will be memorable for a much better reason — he gets £15 million from the sale of Racing Green, the home shopping company he set up after eventually selling Blazer for £5.4 million. He says he has now had enough of clothes retailing and sees himself setting up in restaurants or publishing. Will he make fortune number three?

Waist not

CUTTING a fine figure around town is Brian Taylor, ebullient chief executive of Wardle Stores, the parachutes and inflatable boats company. He has taken a leaf out of Nigel Lawson's book and lost five stone on a crash diet. He looks much happier than the former Chancellor. Now tipping the scales at around 13½ stone, he is confident he will not pile on the pounds again, despite his taste for the finer things in life. That may be just as well, for having lost almost 12 inches around his waist he has thrown out an entire wardrobe of clothes.



"Harvey Nichols? You can't miss it — take the A1 to Pontefract then the M62 for Leeds"

Sporting chance

AN insurance policy was launched yesterday for executives who pay huge membership fees to exclusive sports and health clubs. The policy will pay subscription fees if you are injured and unable to use the facilities, or if you are unemployed. The policy is the idea of Lowndes Lambert, the insurance broker, after one of its development managers, Scott Ingham, suffered a back injury that put him out of action for a couple of months.

A CABBIE waiting outside the newly opened OXO Tower restaurant was asked who he was waiting for. The reply may come as a surprise for the chairman of English Heritage. "Dunno exactly mate, some woman called Jocelyn Stevens."

Tall order

BUSINESS folk in Harrogate this week for the annual Institute of Personnel and Development annual conference are in for a shock — a one-man show called Tall, Dark, Handsome and No 1 that aims to provoke executives into thinking about the environmental, social and ethical challenges of business.

EMPLOYERS would be forgiven for a sudden jump in blood pressure over a new report on stress at work. Announcing the study, the Institute of Personnel and Development said that stress-related illness cost UK employers £79 billion. The figure should have been £7 billion to £8 billion.



Early warning: the Chancellor had a preview of the CBI's latest Industrial Trends survey before his weekend Budget strategy session

Clarke's dilemma: cut tax for votes or appease industry?

Business leaders at the Confederation of British Industry will today slot into place a key piece of Kenneth Clarke's pre-Budget jigsaw when for the final time before the Chancellor takes out his red box, they reveal the state of British business. CBI leaders are expected, in their last quarterly Industrial Trends survey before the Budget, to be cautiously optimistic about the state of industry and the economy. The survey is expected to show confidence with output and orders rising.

The CBI's survey will be broadly in line with the improving mood of similar studies over the past few days and weeks from Britain's chambers of commerce, construction companies and others — that industry, especially manufacturing, is getting better, but still has considerable weaknesses, and so wants a Budget that will promote business and economic stability.

When Mr Clarke met his Treasury ministers and senior officials at Dorneywood, his official residence, over the weekend, to discuss strategy for the Budget next month, he had advance notice of today's CBI findings. But calls by business for stability based on survey evidence such as today's CBI report present the Chancellor with a dilemma: the Budget that industry wants is a good distance away from the Budget Conservative MPs want. The latter may see the Budget as the key opportunity for the Government to improve its prospects before the general election. Over a longer run, economic indicators are good, supporting in particular the current high street mini-boom, and allowing Mr Clarke to claim at the recent Conservative party conference that the economy is "in its best condition ever in our lifetime", adding that people can now "feel the benefits of Tory economic policy as never before."

Yet the Government's own, and most recent, economic figures are mixed. Unemployment fell last week, by 36,500 — a much larger total than the City had expected — but average earnings in effect rose a quarter of a point. Headline inflation is unchanged, but the Government's target measure of underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, is shifting up too. Both sets of figures prompted calls for higher interest rates, offset by an unexpected setback in manufacturing, where output in August fell at the fastest rate for more than three years.

Philip Bassett explains why the Chancellor faces a difficult Budget decision next month

The CBI's survey looks generally much more guarded than those from other business bodies, such as the Institute of Directors, British Chambers of Commerce, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Building Employers' Confederation.

Taken together, the surveys show relative economic buoyancy, though couched with caution, and a considerable hope, that things will improve further. CBI leaders, for instance, will make it clear today that they believe that growth in the economy is there, is steady and is sustainable — providing the Government takes no risks with it in the Budget. Chambers of Commerce also emphasise the steadiness of growth, and suggest too that the manufacturing sector in particular is returning to levels of confidence not seen for 18 months or more. Company directors, as measured by the IOD's much-improved survey, see the outlook as positive, with recovery spreading, but are concerned that weaknesses in the UK's overseas markets are beginning to have an adverse impact on UK exporters. Sectorally, the engineering industry is showing improvement, though EEF leaders believe that while growth will continue, it will be at a slower pace. And in construction, as charted by the BEC's study, the pick-up in the housing market is finally feeding through to building firms after what has been for that industry a double-dip recession so far in the 1990s.

Such trends are leading to a considerable commonality of purpose across industry about what the Chancellor

should then do in the Budget, which CBI leaders are likely to reflect this morning when they publish in full the detailed results of their own survey: a steady Budget for growth, with steps to improve the public finances — and little, if any at all, room for tax cuts.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said: "Our key messages are clear. For business, the priorities are stability, investment and continued progress in reducing public borrowing." Arguing that the state of the public finances calls for "caution", he says: "The shortfall of corporation tax and VAT receipts is a major factor. If this shortfall proves permanent, the scope for planned tax cuts must reduce accordingly."

Dan Peters, deputy Director-General of the Chambers of Commerce Association, agrees. "The Chancellor and the Bank of England must leave interest rates and taxes alone. Further reductions could cause undue stimulus to the economy, while any increase could threaten the delicate balance of this recovery and hurt export markets," he said. So given where industry is within the economy, what does industry want from the Chancellor? Caution is the watchword.

In line with the cautious Budget business is looking for, Treasury and Bank of England officials want the Chancellor to opt for prudence — in part because of the poor state of the public finances, but also because, like business, they do not believe that the

economy, already moving up, needs any further stimulation. Tax cuts will be the key issue. Privately, business recognises that they are politically inevitable, though cuts in taxes — and especially any reductions in personal taxation — virtually define the economic imprudence business does not want to see. For business, how few cuts in taxes the Chancellor can get away with is likely to be the measure of how successful the Budget will be.

Business leaders have all but declared that the state of the public finances are such that the Chancellor has, in fact, no room at all for tax cuts. To disguise the point, and to give the impression at least that they are cutting with the grain, most industry leaders propose at least some cuts in taxes — but they are virtually uniform in suggesting cuts in business taxation, and not just for self-interest, but because they are concerned that any cuts in personal taxes will damage the tax take still further and could add to inflationary pressures by an over-stimulation of demand.

But they privately recognise that what they claim to be the proposals that Britain needs economically are unlikely to be politically sufficient. In that, the judgment of business leaders may be shrewd: by sticking closely to economic requirements, industry leaders are clearly not tying themselves too obviously to the Conservative Party's political fortunes.

If Labour is voted in at the general election, on the Budget at least, business will have clean hands, having argued a case that manifestly is not enough for the Conservatives' re-election. So if the Chancellor does go beyond the strict prudence business wants to see from the Budget, business leaders may regret it — but they know that it might improve the Conservatives' re-election prospects, which they would welcome, or, at the very least, it might allow business to reap some benefit if the political wind changes.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE table with columns for Year, Quarter, and Percentage balance of companies

BUSINESS LETTERS

Fresh perspective on fat-cat rewards

From Mr Denis Harvey-Kelly, Sir, It is time the fat cats of industry were put in proper perspective. Anyone who makes money for their shareholders should be properly rewarded. It is the measurement that needs looking at more closely. The share price is a very poor yardstick. In any case share options create share dilution. Might I suggest that an executive's incentive should not exceed any increase in the dividend to shareholders, and that any increase that reduces the cover of the dividend should not be counted. The only loophole left is the "jiggling" of the accounts. This is something that the auditors should be made accountable for.

No method is entirely satisfactory, but at least something on these lines ensures that no executive on an incentive can take out more from the company in which he works than his shareholders. Yours faithfully, DENIS HARVEY-KELLY, Corby House, Sherborne, Dorset.

The system leads to poor non-executive directors

From Mr Clive Halton Sir, The recent commentary on seemingly excessive pay arrangements and termination settlements can, in my view, often be placed at the door of the appointment system for non-executive directors. A worrying trend is the large number of executive directors who are being appointed as non-executive directors of large corporations. The reason that is often given is that current experience "in the kitchen" is of better value to a board than independence and objectivity. The often-quoted disadvantages of such an appointment are those of self-interest and the setting of pay contracts by their own kind. I have, from my own professional experience, an equally important disadvantage. Today's non-executive appointment demands at least three days per month of time in a large company, and this cannot only be comprised of the hours reading papers at a weekend. How can busy executive directors of leading plc devote such time and attention

Why Tottenham shares sagged

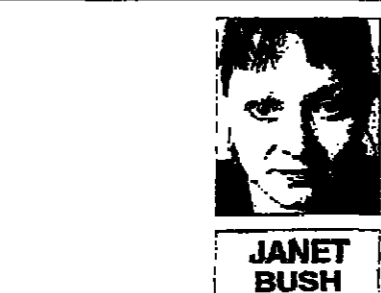
From Mr John Godfrey Sir, Tempus (October 11) seems surprised that Tottenham Hotspur's share price is depressed. Perhaps he doesn't realise that financial success relies upon more than avoiding relegation. TV revenues are dependent to a large degree on the success of the team; and the biggest windfalls come to those who do well in European competitions. These, though, are only open to teams that win trophies or achieve high league placings. At present, Tottenham looks unlikely to meet these criteria. Much has been said about the chairman's reluctance to invest in the football team, but we should not be surprised by this. He has done very nicely by avoiding competition with the "top end" of the market — a strategy that has worked so well for his other vehicle — Amstrad. Yours faithfully, JOHN GODFREY, 29 Melsted Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Bribery by officials treated as corruption

From Mr Paul Vevers Sir, Jason Nisse's article under the headline "Bribe-seeking officials escape prosecution" (The Times, October 14) gives the impression that the Audit Commission regards attempts by government officials to pressurise people into paying bribes as maladministration rather than corruption. This is not the case. He was quoting from a letter from Derek Purdy, an Audit Commission official, about the lack of evidence in an individual case. Our general position is clear: when officials exact bribes, that is corruption — whether bribes are actually paid or not. We condemn all corruption and auditors will act appropriately in pursuing it. Yours faithfully, PAUL VEVERS, Director of Audit Support, The Audit Commission, 1 Vincent Square, London SW1.

Scepticism over Gas computer

From David H. Walton Sir, So British Gas have a record of the phone calls they receive, and this is carefully logged on their computer. Is this the famous computer they use to prepare their bills? Yours faithfully, DAVID H. WALTON, 10 St Guthac's Close, Crowland, Peterborough.



Straws in the electoral wind

The apparent slump in Labour's opinion poll lead reported in the weekend press has jolted conventional wisdom. Although the Prime Minister's shirt-sleeved, Honest John appeal to the electorate went down well in Bournemouth, few guessed that it would go very far in counteracting the latest dollop of sleaze and the threat from the Referendum Party.

And yet the latest NOP survey showed Labour's lead down from 23 points a fortnight ago to 14 points, the lowest reported by this particular survey of voter intentions for three years. The 23-point lead came in the NOP poll on October 3, just after Tony Blair's widely praised speech in Blackpool and before a Conservative conference that turned out to be surprisingly trouble-free. Taking out this poll, all other recent adjusted polls have given Labour a lead of between 14 points and 19 points.

Still, there does appear to have been a small, but genuine, improvement in the Government's poll position. The NOP reading may be the first sign that an improving economy is finally translating into greater popularity. It so, Kenneth Clarke stands vindicated. He has persistently argued that a return of consumer confidence will prove the Government's best electoral friend. And he has counselled, never more strongly than in Bournemouth, against cosmetic tax cuts.

The business of interpreting opinion polls is hazardous but research suggests that the Chancellor is pursuing the best strategy. Only today, Simon Price of Oxford Economic Forecasting, writes that the public's perception of a party's economic competence matters greatly in determining popularity but also that there is no mileage for "extremely unpopular" governments in throwing away what vestiges of economic competence they have purely to win an election. "The damage is too large to undo," he says. "So they may as well act responsibly."

The Government has long experienced a disheartening disjunction between the performance of the economy and its standing in opinion polls but there has been good reason for this. According to David Sanders, professor of government at Essex University, the Conservative reputation for economic competence, which had never faltered since 1979, was shattered by the ERM crisis of 1992.

The overnight destruction of the main plank of the Government's economic policy only compounded the distrust already engendered by ministerial claims of recovery long before it could be felt, and the U-turn on tax it has since been extraordinarily difficult for the Government to recover its reputation as economic manager but Mr Clarke's sensible and gimmick-free stewardship may now be starting to help.

Along with the ERM effect, another theory explaining the breakdown of the link between Conservatism and economic confidence, put forward by Mike Dicks of Lehman Brothers, is negative equity. The Government's standing ought to improve on both counts. The number of households blighted by negative equity has dropped below 500,000 for the first time since 1990, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

And the ERM effect may have faded finally from people's perceptions. Mr Dicks believes the effect of major political events, which seem to have caused permanent shifts in the political parties' standings, probably fades over time. So the hugely positive effect of Tony Blair's assumption of the Labour leadership may be waning but so, too, is the ERM negative for the Government.

None of the above should send punters running to their local betting shops to put money on a Conservative victory next spring. For one thing, if economic management is the issue it is difficult to find any water, blue or red, between Mr Clarke and Gordon Brown. For another, although the economy is important, it is not the only reason why people vote the way they do. A liking for Tony Blair's new society rhetoric, a dislike for sleaze, a simple desire for change all count in the electoral balance.

THE TIMES OOH LA LA! An unbelievable offer starting in The Times on Monday, October 28. http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES



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Another record close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing alcoholic beverages such as Guinness, Harp, and others with their respective prices and changes.

BANKS

Table listing various banks and their stock prices.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing breweries, pubs, and restaurants like Asahi, Carlsberg, and others.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Table listing building and construction related stocks.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing building materials stocks.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributor stocks.

LOW COSTS

Table listing low-cost stocks.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing diversified industrial stocks.

ELECTRIC & ELECT

Table listing electric and electronics stocks.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Table listing household goods stocks.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance stocks.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts.

MEDIA

Table listing media stocks.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing engineering and vehicle stocks.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing food manufacturer stocks.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing healthcare stocks.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing leisure and hotel stocks.

MINING

Table listing mining stocks.

PROPERTY

Table listing property stocks.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing food retailers.

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RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing food retailers.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers.

WATER

Table listing water utility stocks.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing alternative investment market stocks.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing British funds.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term investments.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term investments.

UNDATED

Table listing undated investments.

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

Table listing index-linked investments.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing medium-term investments.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing distributors.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical stocks.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing printing and paper stocks.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications.

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Table listing textiles and apparel.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport stocks.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers.

WATER

Table listing water utility stocks.

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Table listing alternative investment market.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized in columns with headers like 'Unit Name', 'Bid', 'Ask', 'Yield %', etc.

Advertisement for 'The Ponte Vecchio' featuring an image of a bridge in Florence and text: 'is where you'll find all the traditional goldsmiths, silversmiths and antique dealers. Fly non-stop to Florence. London Florence'.

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Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured and mostly illegible.

# THE MEDWAY TOWNS

FOCUS

Della Mason introduces a three-page report on the Medway Towns' recovery

## Kent revival onstream

About half a million people who live or work in the Medway Towns, Kent, have good reason to celebrate as the whole area — the towns of Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham, Rainham and Strood — sees the biggest boost of commercial investment in their lifetime.

New roads and a new tunnel — together with a £180 million project — plus state-of-the-art offices, a university and a £160 million housing development on St Mary's Island, are complete or under way. They have created a feeling of optimism in this area astride the River Medway, home to one sixth of the population of Kent.

Just one hour from London, this commuter belt has felt the chilly blast of recession more fiercely than most parts of Britain. It was triggered by the closure of Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard in 1984, the biggest single employer of skilled workers in the area, with the loss of 7,000 jobs. The knock-on effect was immense. Unemployment reached 12 per cent at its height in January 1993.

Recovery is now evident throughout the area. This year the Princess Royal opened the new £80 million Medway Tunnel, a dual carriageway under the Medway. The £100 million Medway Towns Northern Relief Road, which links into the tunnel and

directly onto the M2, providing speedy access to the M25, London, the Channel Tunnel and the Continent, will be completed in early 1999. Travel time to the motorway will drop from one hour to 10 minutes.

English Partnerships, the Government's urban regeneration agency, Thamesport container terminal and Rochester upon Medway City Council financed a £21 million loan to get the project started. The Rochester Bridge Trust and English Partnerships staked part of the investment for the new tunnel, and the Government has now matched the offer and given its financial commitment to the schemes, including repayment of the loan. As a result Kent County Council has become the provider of one of the largest transport projects in the UK.

About 4,000 businesses are located in the area, ranging from avionics at Rochester to financial company headquarters in Chatham and foreign investment in manufacturing in Gillingham.

Business parks in the Medway Towns include the Gillingham Business Park which has won awards for its design and upkeep.

The Medway City Estate, at one end of the new Medway Tunnel, has unique waterside facilities and 2,000 employees

on site. It is ripe for expansion.

The former Chatham dockyard covered 550 acres of prime land. On closure the Government divided it into three, the first being 80 acres of dockyard history and buildings, now the Historic Dockyard. The next 350 acres was scheduled for redevelopment by English Partnerships. Its remit was to prepare the site for redevelopment by providing and marketing opportunities for companies to build new homes, offices, a marina, shops and leisure buildings, all within a masterplan.

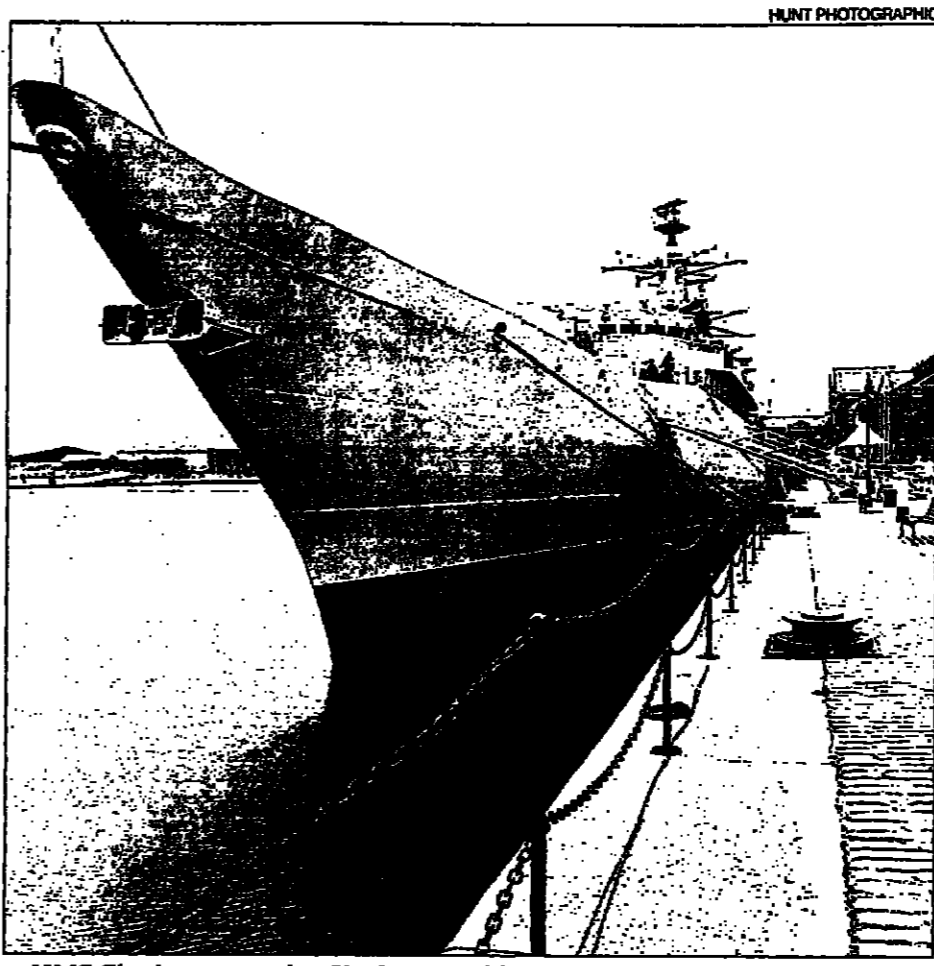
The third area, the waterside and docks at Chatham, was acquired by Medway Ports, which became part of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, Liverpool, in October 1993.

Twelve years after the dockyard closure, regeneration is taking shape.

Stephen Pritchard of BBP Associates, managing the Chatham Maritime project for English Partnerships, says: "We are delighted that the results are beginning to be seen and appreciated."

"We are regenerating a huge area. When companies look at this now for the first time they are singing a far different tune from seven years ago."

Today's unemployment figures stand at 7.9 per cent and continue to fall as business moves back into the area.



HMS Chatham moored at Chatham Maritime, on the site of the navy dockyards

## Island offers life on the river

ST MARY'S ISLAND, Chatham Maritime, a joint venture by English Partnerships and Countryside Properties, is designed to create a complete "island community" on 150 acres.

The first phase of building is almost complete on what were mudflats in the River Medway, once part of the Chatham Royal Naval base. There are single apartments, two and three-bedroom houses, and three and four-bedroom detached houses.

Demand for property on the island, which is lapped by the tides of the Medway estuary and encircled by a riverside walk, has exceeded expectations. The first phase of 47 houses, priced from £44,950 to £79,950 and £180,000, attracted buyers quickly. This has brought forward the whole building programme of 201 properties.

Independent architects are being invited to submit plans for the island school, community hall, a small retail development and a doctor's surgery.

Part of the £160 million project will have riverside houses and overlook a marina. There are 50 acres of parkland in the centre of the island, and a security system.

The next stage to be planned will be a fisherman's village, with a traditional public house at the ancient jetty. Builders from abroad, including one Finnish company, are being invited to bring their own designs.

Richard Moore, the project manager, says: "People of all ages are viewing this development with great excitement. It is unique. Much thought and care is going into the scheme to make it a superb place to live and to enjoy the river."

The site manager, John Sutton, adds: "It is an island where families will feel secure and able to relax." The island already has a new £80 million access tunnel.

DELLA MASON

## A fitting home for naval history

John Young explores the award-winning maritime museum based at Chatham's Royal Dockyard



Chatham dockyard, once the cradle for the Fleet, now guards the Navy's treasures including a Victorian naval sloop

The Ministry of Defence has been strongly criticised lately for its alleged insensitivity in disposing of properties that have become surplus to its needs. But its decision in 1984 to hand over the historic core of the great Royal Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, 80 acres of splendid and evocative buildings, many classed as ancient monuments, to a charitable trust to be conserved and managed as a museum, could only have been applauded.

It would have been a tragedy if it had done anything else. For not only is the dockyard at the heart of more than four centuries of naval history, but it also provides a superbly spacious site for the display of an ever-growing collection of maritime treasures which attracts more than 120,000 visitors a year and provides a home for nearly 100 businesses, which employ some 325 people.

In about 1570, the building of a mast pond, storehouses and a forge at Chatham placed it in the forefront of the great age of Elizabethan naval expansion. A decade later, the Queen held a reception for visiting foreign dignitaries, no doubt in order to impress upon them that, as a maritime power, Britain meant business.

Among Chatham's subsequent achievements were the launch of the *Revenge*, celebrated in Tennyson's poem; the "fighting" *Temeraire*, the subject of Turner's most famous painting; and *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship in 1805. The "iron-clad" *Achilles*, then the world's largest ship, was launched in 1863. In wartime (boom) and peacetime (recession) the dockyard

built everything from battleships to nuclear submarines, and from the first experimental catamaran to a pleasure yacht for the Tsar, Peter the Great.

When ships limped home from war, it repaired and relaunched them. Among them were the cruiser *HMS Ajax*, heroine of the Battle of the River Plate, and *HMS Kelly*, the destroyer made famous by her commander Lord Mountbatten.

The trust was initially funded by the Government in a one-off payment of £11.35 million, which has since been supplemented by grants from the Department of National Heritage, charitable donations, rents from commercial tenants and the conversion and sale of some Georgian

buildings for residential use. In 1992, it received the British Tourist Authority's Come to Britain special award for outstanding enterprise.

One of the most publicised attractions of the museum is the Ropery, built to supply the needs of sailing ships which needed some 20 miles of rope for their rigging alone and lines long enough to anchor in 40 fathoms. Ropes are still produced by traditional methods for commercial use, and regular demonstrations are held in a building nearly a quarter of a mile long.

In the same category is the "sail and colour loft", where sails and flags are still produced on a commercial basis. Across the road is *HMS Gannet*, the last surviving Victorian naval sloop, now

being restored for the Maritime Trust. Last May saw the opening of a collection of historic lifeboats, and *HMS Ocelot*, the last submarine built in Chatham, will shortly have a new home in the dockyard.

Perhaps the most enjoyable display is the Wooden Walls gallery in the former Mast House and Mould Loft describes the building of an 18th-century warship as if a young apprentice is telling the story. When funding is available, a parallel exhibition will be installed to describe the building of a later iron vessel when funds permit.

There is also a detailed model of *HMS Victory* which had been built in 1941 for a Hollywood film about Lady Hamilton. The model was donated by the United States Naval Training Centre in San Diego, California. In a way, it seems a pity that the real thing should be in Portsmouth.

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Down by the riverside: Chatham has begun to transform itself from a "squaddy town" into a place where white-collar businesses are flourishing

Chatham spreads it wings

What happened to the town when the great Royal Dockyard closed down? John Young reports

On March 30, 1984, after more than four centuries of building and servicing Britain's Navy, the great Royal Dockyard in Chatham closed its gates for the last time. In an already economically depressed region — at least by the standards of southeast England — the loss of 7,000 jobs in the dockyard itself and hundreds more among the companies which supplied it might have proved catastrophic. In fact it spawned a diversification which has both revived the economy and transformed the environment. Garrison towns are seldom places of beauty, and Chatham in its naval heyday was no exception. Across the river Rochester had its cathedral, its castle, its picturesque streets and Dickensian heritage, but Chatham was, in the words of John Day, chief executive of the Medway Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "a squaddy town", overwhelmingly dependent on the mili-

tary — Army as well as Navy — with mostly shabby streets and little to encourage inward investment. That so much has changed is a tribute both to the chamber and to the Medway Enterprise Agency which was established in the early 1980s. The early results were little short of spectacular: some 2,000 new firms set up in the area, and within months, all but some 1,500 former dockyard workers had found new jobs. But the boom of the late 1980s did not last. By the end of decade recession had struck, and all too many of the brave new enterprises succumbed. Larger firms in the area, such as Metal Box and Wingates, survived mainly unscathed, but GEC Avionics, like the rest of the defence industry, was hit by the "peace dividend" and has since been forced to shed about half its 6,000-strong workforce. Many small firms which folded were located on the Medway City Estate, a conventional industrial estate. A more imaginative and better planned approach has been adopted on the Gillingham industrial park, home mostly to companies with more money to invest. It has already won awards for landscaping and the emphasis placed on visual amenities. Among the newcomers are three Japanese companies: a development attributed by David Neale, a board member of the chamber responsible for marketing, partly to the links formed by one Will Adams, a local man who was invited to Japan in the 1920s to advise on the modernisation of the Imperial Navy. Equally important to the area's economic revival has

been Chatham Maritime, established by English Estates, and now the responsibility of its successor English Partnerships, to redevelop and revitalise some 350 acres formerly occupied by the dockyard. There are one or two clouds on an otherwise generally bright horizon. One is the huge new Bluewater out-of-town shopping development in nearby Dartford, which, it is feared, could damage local retailers. Another is the failure to derive more advantages from the Channel Tunnel rail link: it had been hoped that the line would run further north and that Medway, rather than Ashford, would be chosen as the main interchange station in Kent. Another temporary grievance concerns the new road tunnel under the Medway. After years of pleading it has finally been built and opened, but for the moment it lacks the all-important access roads.

John Grigsby looks at the reluctant marriage of neighbours Rochester and Gillingham

If there is a bureaucratic heaven, the marriage of the City of Rochester upon Medway with the borough of Gillingham was definitely not made there. Gillingham is being dragged protesting to the altar, to merge with Rochester on April 1, 1998, following Parliament's approval in July of the order creating the new authority of 200,000 people. It will also form a new Medway county, carved out of Kent. Despite their geographical proximity, Rochester and Gillingham are unlikely bedfellows. Almost all they have in common is Chatham dockyard: the historic docks are in Rochester's area and Chatham Maritime, with its associated business park, in Gillingham. Rochester is dominated by the great set piece of the Norman keep and Cathedral and cherishes its links with Charles Dickens. Gillingham is a town of neat terraced houses, the legacy of its growth in the mid-19th century as a dormitory for the Royal Navy Dockyard and the associated military establishments along the Medway. The changeover is complex: 38 groups of officers from the three councils involved are considering the changeover, and 80 per cent of the staff and functions will come from Kent County Council, which vigorously fought to keep the county intact. Matters are further complicated by Rochester's status as a city, which will have to appear in the title of the new authority if it is to be retained. A decision on the new authority's name and coat of arms will be taken after the shadow elections on April 1. And then there are politics. Gillingham is controlled by the Liberal

Wedding wail from two cities



Rochester Cathedral is one of the main tourist attractions of the city

3,500 council houses and prides itself on providing the homeless with temporary accommodation. Rochester sold its entire stock to a building society, the interest enabling it to avoid levying a district council tax for three years. John Shaw, Labour leader of Rochester, said the new authority would be more powerful, enabling it to develop the economy of the whole area which had been devastated by the closure of Chatham dockyard in the mid-Eighties. "Anything we have done, or Gillingham has done, since then has affected both areas," he said. "It has been monstrous really not to have a co-ordinated policy." Nevertheless, to many the decision of John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who was educated at King's School, Rochester, appears illogical. Kent will lose 5 per cent of its population, but 15 per cent of its budget. There is little popular support. Of those questioned for a MORI poll, 63 per cent in Gillingham and 53 per cent in Rochester opted for no change. Apart from the transitional costs, estimated by the commission to be £7.8 million-£11.2 million, the average Band D taxpayer in Kent is expected to pay an extra £23 a year, and residents of the two towns an average of £190 a year to cover the costs of the change. Many regard Kent as a well-run authority which has capitalised on its geographical position and spread the benefits to the whole county. Now some business quarters fear these policies will be jeopardised when Medway becomes its own little county.

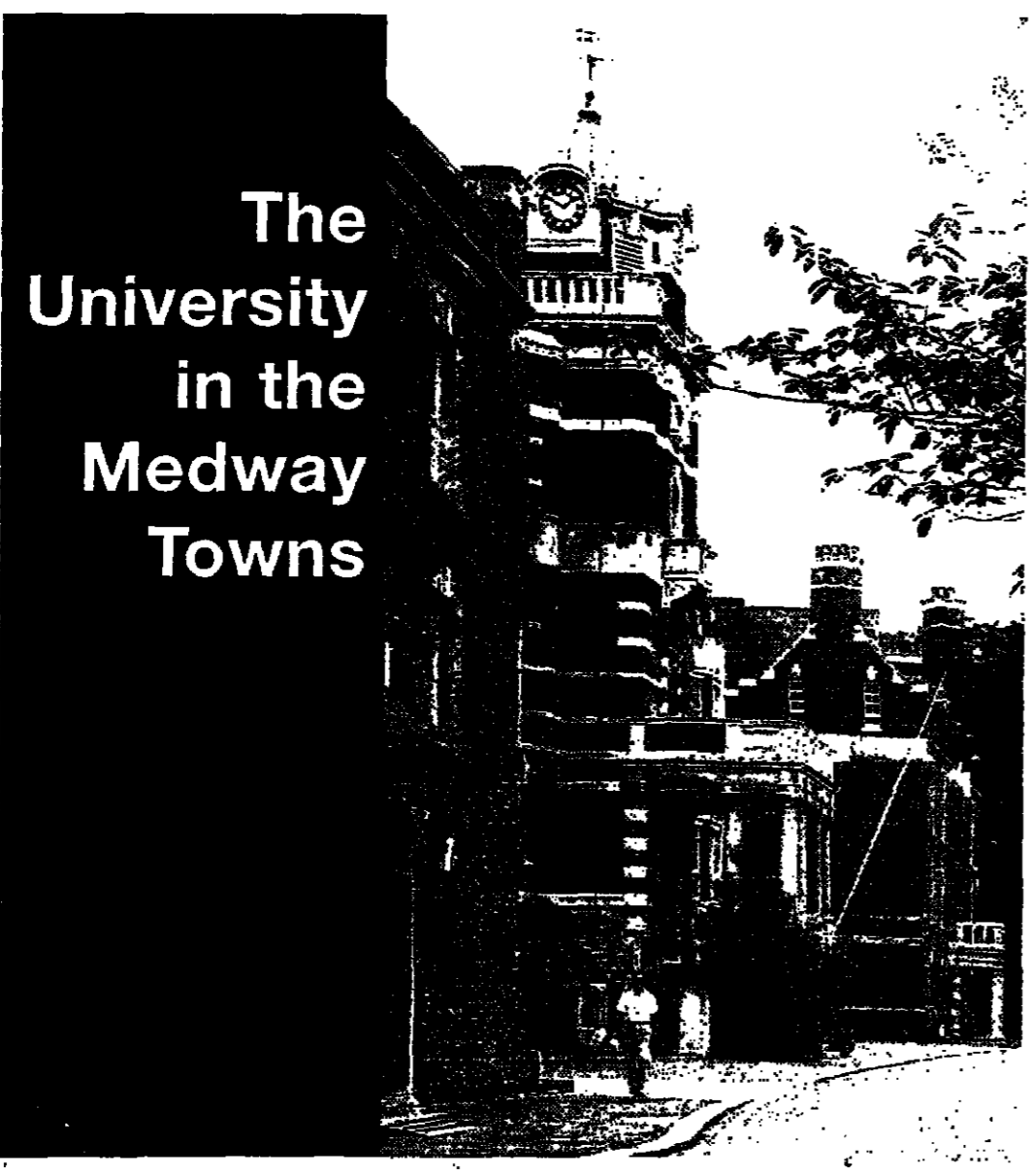
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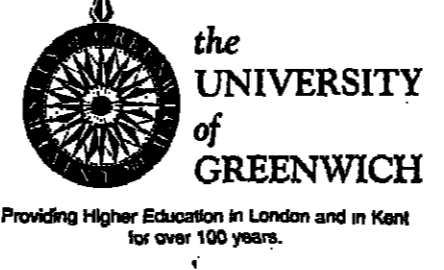


The University in the Medway Towns

Medway Campus

The University of Greenwich is holding Open Days over the next Academic Year at its Medway Campus, where its Schools of Earth and Environmental Science and Engineering are based. The campus, at Chatham Maritime, is a multi-million pound complex, offering world class facilities. Course areas include: Computer Communications Electrical/Electronic Engineering Engineering and Business Management Environmental Science Geography Geology GIS/Remote Sensing Mechanical Engineering A foundation year is available for students with non-standard qualifications. For further information about our Open Days call Steph Farr on 01634 828844 or write to her at: The University of Greenwich, Medway Campus, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4AW. For general enquiries about the above courses and others on other campuses please call

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# The Dickens of a time

**Della Mason on how the Medway towns celebrate their links with the great novelist**

Medway life in the 1800s is chronicled in Charles Dickens's novel *Great Expectations*. Today Rochester High Street steps back into the past at least three times a year to take on the atmosphere created by the writer, who loved the town, who knew every cranny there and who wrote about and immortalised local people.

The annual celebration of the Dickensian Christmas (on December 7 and 8 this year), one of the main events on the tourist calendar, evokes the memory of the Victorian winters he described so vividly. The visitor can rub shoulders with Scrooge (albeit the 1996 version in costume), Mr Pickwick or any one of the huge cast of characters that Dickens drew from real life. Local people insist that you can still meet those recognisable Dickens characters. Dickens at Rochester is an important part of the Medway Towns' tourism trade. In 1995, 437,000 visitors were attracted to places of interest including the Charles Dickens Centre, Rochester Castle, and Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Many thousands more flock from all over the world to the street extravaganzas: the Rochester Sweeps Festival (May), the Dickens Festival (May/June) and Dickensian Christmas with its bellingers, horse-drawn vehicles and musical shows.

Rochester is also hoping to



Many thousands flock from all over the world to the Dickens Festival

become known as a festival city. It has a sports festival, the summer Medway Arts Festival with top orchestras performing open-air, a Norman Rochester event, where everyone dresses in costume, and the Strood Steam Fair (traction engines, costumes not obligatory).

The principal events officer, Carl Madjitey, is a busy man. The summer Dickens Festival was launched 18 years ago, and has

grown year by year. The streets are full of crinolines, frock coats and costumes, and people travel hundreds of miles to tumble from cars, faces painted and wearing wigs: all part of the frivolity and fun.

These events, neither highbrow nor exacting, are sheer amusement. There is dancing in the street, laughter — and the children love it. Dickensian Christmas is a picture story, with real snow — yes, if

it does not snow, they bring it in — and ice for skaters. "It actually feels like Christmas here... with the snow and the twinkling lights and ladies in big fur-trimmed bonnets. It is very enticing," says Mr Madjitey. He adds that the whole idea of their Dickensian Christmas is to step back in time — and take things slowly.

"People say to me 'But what happens at the Christmas event?' In fact it is people doing their Christmas shopping, meeting friends and enjoying it all at a leisurely pace. We are so unused to that today. But once you do wind down, it really is fabulous. The carol singers from Rochester Cathedral come out to sing carols in the snow... It just feels like Christmas the way it should be, the way it was..."



The model campus: the Grade I listed buildings were formerly the officers' and ratings' quarters

## Making waves in science

The University of Greenwich, London, is growing at a rate that few British universities can equal. Having acquired the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, from next year, it has also firmly established its School of Earth and Environmental Sciences — and now opened its School of Engineering — at the new Medway Campus, Chatham Maritime, in Kent.

The campus will offer higher educational facilities to 2,500 students. Six hundred have already begun their degree courses.

The Grade I listed university buildings were the officers' and ratings' quarters. Where the ratings slept in long rows of slung hammocks there are now libraries, lecture halls and laboratories.

In 1994 the university — now the tenth largest in Britain — decided to move to the Medway Towns, which had no equivalent university or higher education facility. "Such a high population needed in its midst the learning facilities that we offer," Professor David Willis, Dean of the Faculty of the Environment at the Medway Campus, says.

About 60 per cent are of the

**Medway Campus: from naval college to learning centre**

London, it also put together a joint venture company — the Natural Resources International Ltd — to become the business-winning arm of NRI. The institute aims to win more managed research, consultancy and training projects. The NRI staff, who have tremendous hands-on experience abroad, will also lecture students on environmental studies and earth sciences.

Just back from China, where the university is establishing yet another arm, Professor Willis says that the Medway Campus is also working in the Medway Towns with local authorities and business people. "We hope to encourage businesses to use our services. There are superb laboratories and our new School of Engineering, which opened this year, is ideally based here in Medway, where so many people have great engineering skills."

DELLA MASON

*The University's School of Engineering, in particular, is seen as an exciting catalyst for the Medway Towns. There are open days from next month. Details on 0800 005 006.*

John Grigsby reports on the environment and the pressures posed by development. Will they ever get along?

Despite the international importance of its estuary as a wildlife habitat, the River Medway faces pressures which are as acute as those on any river in Britain.

The estuary is recognised as of international importance — it supports 70,000 waders and wildfowl in winter. But the wide channels and sheltered harbours, with their easy access to the North Sea which made it a natural home for the Royal Navy at Chatham and

## Estuary wildlife at risk

Sheerness in the 17th and 18th centuries, also attracted paper mills and power stations in the 20th. For years they — and the ships which served them — discharged their detritus into the river.

Recent government legislation with its stiff fines for pollution has changed that, but the river's various roles

add to the pressure on the Medway. As a navigable highway, the river is becoming increasingly busy. It handles about 20,500 commercial vessels a year, with a grand total of 24 million tonnes.

It falls within the Thames Gateway, the area between Greenwich and Sheerness which the Government hopes to revive, and where there is pressure for development along the banks to cope with derelict land and tackle the high rates of unemployment.

Medway, you have also got issues such as sea level rise. When you build sea walls, the sea level rises and you get drowning of the coastal habitats.

"The problem with a place like the Medway is that southeast England is packed with people and when they have got people pressures next to wildlife pressures, inevitably you get problems."

A new Medway Estuary and Swale Management plan which seeks to reconcile the conflicting interests will be published in February and Andrew Paley, estuary project officer for the North Kent Marshes Initiative, says that they will publish the final proposals in July. Although it will not be a statutory document, the various parties will be obliged to take it into consideration.

catches. But I have to admit that the river still does not look very clean."

Brian Clayton, membership secretary for the Medway River Users' Association, says: "Really the only beef we have is that rubbish collects below Allington Lock and never seems to get sorted out at all. Otherwise we believe that the river is clean and much less polluted than it was."

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When it comes to a choice between reviving the economy and protecting the environment, the economy often wins. In July, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds won an important victory when the European Court ruled that the Government had acted illegally by leaving Lappel Bank out of the Medway Estuary Special Protection area for economic reasons. But the mudflats supporting important bird species, had already been destroyed.

It is also an important recreational area with 4,000 resident moorings for yachts and cabin cruisers and many yacht clubs and marinas. Nor is that all.

Chris Corrigan, senior conservation officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says: "As well as development pressures in the

The local councils, the Sports Council, English Nature, the RSPB, the port companies, the fisheries and agricultural interests have taken part along with those whose livelihood depends on the river or who use it for pleasure.

Mr Paley says that five main areas of concern have been identified during the year and a half of discussion: sustainability, judging how much activity the area can take and how environmental habitats can be conserved and replaced; land use, including the use of brownfield sites; dredging; recreational access; and management and public education and awareness.

Medway Ports, the harbour conservancy and pilotage authority for the 17.5 miles of river downstream to Allington Lock to the Medway Buoys, advises sailors how to avoid disturbing the wintering flocks of geese, ducks and waders which have bred in the far north of Europe.

Its jurisdiction covers the Swale, Queenborough Harbour and Milton and Faversham creeks. The rest of the 60-mile river is non-tidal. Its Marine Division, headed by captain Derek Stoyles, the Harbour Master and a veteran of 34 years on the Medway, includes a river Inspectorate whose responsibilities include monitoring all hazardous materials passing through the port, investigating and reporting on oil pollution, controlling yacht moorings and liaising with recreational groups and motor yachting organisations.

Let's talk

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**Who's behind economic regeneration in the Medway Towns?**

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THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

The Canadian choreographer Edouard Lock brings his apocalyptic vision back to Britain



THEATRE 1

An enchanting tale of artisan love, Pottery, is one of the highlights of a festival of Baltic arts



THEATRE 2

A little more wit is called for in James Martin Charlton's new play in Croydon, Groping in the Dark



TOMORROW

Why the conductor Riccardo Chailly is returning to the LSO after an absence of 16 years

Fast-talking poet of dance

Allen Robertson talks to the choreographer Edouard Lock about his new work as La La La Human Steps starts a UK tour



Edouard Lock - "Meaning is not the foremost consideration"

Two of his dances, Human Sex and New Demons, became apocalyptic and furiously raucous icons of the 1980s. We could be forgiven for thinking that Edouard Lock is one of yesterday's men, yet nothing could be further from the truth.

forward. Before, you tended to press your back against your seat and just give in to being frontally assaulted. Here, the public has to be a bit careful, a bit more attentive. Lasting an hour and 45 minutes without interval, 2 features a cast of eight dancers and two musicians, who play an original score for a pair of harpsichords composed by Britain's Gavin Bryars.

The poetries of dancing took over immediately. "I was voracious; between 1971 and 1975 I was everywhere, taking every class, ferreting out every obscure style. I could not afford to come to Europe, but I spent most of my time on the bus to New York and hunting down anything that moved."

Lecavalier is seen in a pair of films that are screened simultaneously side by side. In one she is 30. In the other she plays a 95-year-old. "The films deal with a very clear subject-matter," says Lock. "They share common activities like eating and sleeping, measurable mundane things which everybody does. In one Louise is Louise. In the other she is a non-person."

THEATRE: A dazzling Baltic festival; an Immorality Play in Croydon; courtroom drama transfers from school hall to West End

Cast in Estonia

PEETER JALAKAS's quirky and inventive theatre show, Estonian Games, Wedding, was the perfect opener for the festival of Baltic arts, Altered States, at Watermans Arts Centre, west London. It used computer technology in a witty and sophisticated way, and gave a vivid flavour of Estonia's folkloric tradition to dispel any narrow-minded preconceptions you might have had about theatre from this small country.

But ordinary life goes on. Jalakas chooses to present a traditional wedding, and immediately on the screen appears a group of severe-looking matriarchs in full traditional costume. First we hear the haunting sound of their runic chanting then they step right through the screen: seven full-throated women from the Setu Choir, Leiko. History unravels as the wedding preparations continue until, in 1946, the Soviet invasion stamps out the country's newly won independence and 21,000 Estonians are deported. But by the time the bride finally takes her groom, it is 1991. Estonia is independent and, before we know it, we have crashed into the present and there we are, the audience on screen, happily applauding.

artisan love, Epp Piliarpert's Pottery. In a ramshackle old pottery, the owner, a dour-looking fellow (Prit Pedajas himself) finishes his last pot, bequeaths it to his young wife, Epp, walks offstage and dies. Pedajas then plays exquisite ancient tunes on the kannel, a zither-like instrument. The bearded Epp (Liina Tennessar) and her workers Niilas (Jaak Rekkor) and Jass (Heiko Soot) alleviate their days by breaking into heart-wrenching songs to Pedajas's accompaniment.



Feat of clay: Heiko Soot and Liina Tennessar in the witty Epp Piliarpert's Pottery

A fable less than fabulous

THE TITLE has its sexual meaning, and more than a furtive grope goes on in the warehouse at the fringe of town. Here, excited by Ecstasy, patrons lose any remaining inhibitions that stop them satisfying their desires. But James Martin Charlton probably wants his title to be taken philosophically. All systems are malevolent, especially those to do with politics and religion; the longing to find a comforting system is immature and we must grope, in the dark, as we shape a personal standard of conduct.

Groping in the Dark Warehouse, Croydon and directed by Charlton. Saint (Tim Kane) is a painter taken up by Lord Stone (Richard Earthy) to teach his son the useful disciplines of art. The dramatic function of this lusty youngster (Sebastian Knapp) is to represent instinctive resistance to his father, who is fond of giving Hitler salutes and appears to be running the country. The lad goes off to the warehouse, which is run by Baroo Sate, who could well be Satan in his long leather coat and top hat (overfamiliar accessories for a king demon) and who turns out to be Lord Stone's rejected brother. Certainly we are not watching a naturalistic play here, but nor are we, in the first half, watching a well-organised or persuasively argued one. The dream sequences, the character of the Guro (Euan Macnaughton), and the summary progress through time are some of the play's intriguing features, but the parable form that makes it a sort of Immorality Play is too restrictive to carry Charlton's attacks and warnings convincingly.

Schoolboy stars of the macabre

ON PAPER John Logan's 1985 play Never the Sinner has all the tools to explore a fascinating slice of real-life macabre. His subject, the motiveless murder of a 14-year-old boy by two affluent students in Chicago in 1923, initiated one of the trials of the century and inspired Hitchcock's 1948 film version of Patrick Hamilton's play Rope. What made this crime so disturbing was that Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb murdered Robert Franks with a chisel for no apparent reason other than a warped obsession with Nietzsche's theories about the master race. Having spent a year conducting his own research into the case, Logan stitched together original court extracts that tell a chilling story of two idealistic teenage homosexuals who fantasise about being intellectually beyond the reach of any moral code.

Never the Sinner Arts Theatre. It was Darrow's introduction of psychiatric evidence - the first time in a murder trial - that commuted the young men's certain death sentences to "life plus 99 years". How much he did it for the sake of his own reputation is delicately muddy. His closing summation lasted three days. KCS commendably wrap up Logan's play in an hour and a half. They should take heart from their West End bleeding time, after all, is on their side. JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Facing off: Thomas Murphy and Euan Macnaughton

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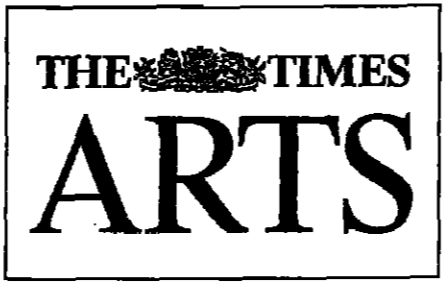
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CHOICE 1 Albert Finney stars in the play that wowed Paris. Yasmina Reza's Art



CHOICE 2 Gene Wilder is in Neil Simon's comedy Laughter on the 23rd Floor



CHOICE 3 Chichester's Talking Heads comes to London with Maggie Smith



OPERA The ENO revival of David Pountney's Cunning Little Vixen does not quite live up to expectations

ACCOMMODATING EVA: Diane... THE ALCHEMIST: Simon Callow... ART: Albert Finney...

THEATRE GUIDE Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London... HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY... SEATS AT ALL PRICES...

LONG RUNNERS Blood Brothers... WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLFP... MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION...

NEW RELEASES BOSTON KICKOUT... BREAKING THE WAVES... DRAGONHEART... A GOODBYE MOVIE...

CINEMA GUIDE Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS... NOTHING BUT TRUTH...

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OPERA: An ENO favourite disappoints; Clonter Opera for All means what it says

Foxy lady is showing her age

The David Pountney production of Janáček's opera is now an incredible 16 years old. It has been in the ENO repertory for half that time...



Singing with bite: Lesley Garrett in the title role of Janáček's Cunning Little Vixen

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LAW

STOPPING STALKERS 43
LAW REPORT 23

'This is only the start'



Lord Mackay of Clashfern, above, explains proposals for a better-targeted, best-value legal aid system



A woman approaches T.V. Edwards, East End solicitors, in search of legal aid: is the present system out of control?

The latest figures for legal aid spending show an increase of 10 per cent in the year to August. The nature of the present scheme makes it impossible precisely to control the amount spent. But what is certain is that we cannot afford to go on spending more and more on legal aid.

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they will ensure that available resources stretch further to help more people and are targeted at those with the greatest need, as well as giving control from year to year of the amount to be spent.

voluntary advice agencies for more than a year. In August it published for consultation its proposals for the second phase of that pilot. By December, the board will be in a position to invite formal applications and new contracts will be in place during the first half of 1997.

In July I started consultation on standard fees for advocates in civil cases and litigators in family cases. Standard fees help not only to control costs under the existing scheme as an interim measure but also to meet any desire to provide a quicker, more certain payment system. They also prepare the way for the introduction of fixed-price contracts.

Equality creeps nearer

THE PROSPECT of the first woman to lead the Bar has emerged with the election of Heather Hallett, QC, as its vice-chairman for 1997. Ms Hallett, who is married to a barrister, in 1989 became a QC and also a Crown Court recorder. She specialises in criminal law and was appointed a deputy High Court judge in 1995, the year she was elected leader of the South Eastern circuit.

INSIDE OUTS



Hallett: on the ladder Recruitment business is booming again - so much so that the leading recruitment consultancy Quarry Douglall has opened a new Birmingham office to add to its regional network.

Date set

A DATE has finally been set for the long-awaited inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary. Oral evidence will be taken in January and written submissions must be in this year.

Lost to golf

LARGE numbers of City solicitors who would like to be judges are being lost to the 'golf course' because of current recruitment procedures. A survey by the Law Society found that 70 per cent of City solicitors would be interested, but only if civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf enabled them to take up more suitable positions, with more flexibility in training requirements.

Legal horses for courses

CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, QC, and 16 other members of his set at Brick Court, off Fleet Street, London, are celebrating after spectacular recent successes with their sponsored horses, Legal Democrat and Legal Jaguar. At Wembley they achieved two firsts: Legal Democrat won the Prix St Georges one night and the Intermediaire the next, and finished second in the Intermediaire Kur the night after. Legal Jaguar, who is much younger, came third in the Novice Class at the National Championships three weeks ago. Both horses are trained and ridden by Carl Hester, the British Olympic rider.



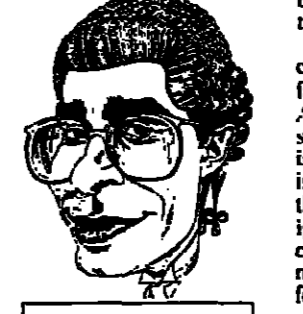
Hester on Legal Democrat

This was the only British win in dressage. William Wood, a member of chambers, said: "What was most satisfactory was that Legal Democrat was winning against Dutch and German opposition, which has been beating us in recent years. We are all hoping that with this kind of result, and with proper backing, British riders and horses will be properly competitive at the European championships in Germany next summer and ultimately in Sydney in 2000. If we can set some kind of precedent, and bring other lawyers and professionals into the sport, it will have been worthwhile."

Judging the right to a fair trial

Yesterday in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights heard oral argument in Gregory v The United Kingdom, an important case concerning alleged racial bias by a member of a jury. In November 1991, David Gregory was tried at Manchester Crown Court on charges of robbery. Gregory is black. While the jury were considering their verdict, one juror sent a note to the judge. It said: "Jury showing racial overtones. One member to be excused."

contrary to the requirements of the Convention. The European Court added that the finding of a violation of Article 6 (1) was a sufficient remedy, with the addition that France had to pay the costs of the proceedings in Strasbourg. The court said that it had no jurisdiction to order a retrial.



COUNSEL DAVID PANNICK QC

The four dissenting judges argued that the applicant could not establish any reasonable likelihood that the alleged remark was decisive as to Remli's guilt. The complaint was "trivial". Taken out of a context whose details and particular circumstances were unknown, it "might only have been a joke" (as the French Government, somewhat surprisingly, had submitted).

Racism, in a jury or elsewhere, is no laughing matter. The serious point the European Court will be considering in Gregory's case is whether Article 6 (1) obliges the trial judge to investigate a complaint of racism, or whether other steps may suffice to ensure that the tribunal's impartiality is maintained. The court is likely to conclude that, depending on the facts of a particular case, Article 6 (1) can be satisfied by something less than a judicial investigation of alleged racism. The defect in Remli's case was that the domestic court chose to ignore the matter, without considering the evidence submitted to it, on "the purely formal ground" that it was not able to take note of events alleged to have occurred outside its presence.

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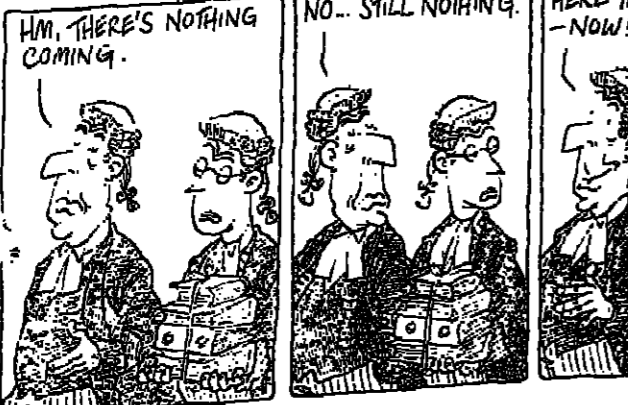
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The Legal Counsel's duties will include all day to day legal issues arising primarily in Eastern Europe, but will also be required to cover for additional regions. The work will involve drafting and negotiating licensing, services and training

contracts, dealing with corporate and employment issues, reviewing legal issues in tender documents, and implementing and developing company business policies and practices.

Candidates should have two to six years' commercial experience and be qualified in the UK, US or Eastern Europe. Ideally, they will also have experience in intellectual property, information technology and corporate law. They must be fluent in English; knowledge of an Eastern European language is highly desirable. They must have the flexibility to be part of a constantly changing environment, be proactive and a team player. Above all, they must be commercially aware.

The position is likely to be based either in Switzerland or Eastern Europe and will require extensive travel. A generous remuneration package will be offered.

For further details, please contact Sonya Rayner (who is handling this assignment exclusively) at Chambers & Partners (Professional Recruitment) 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET, tel: 0171 606 9371, fax: 0171 600 1793, or send her a copy of your CV.

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London & Singapore

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Currently Sidley & Austin has 760 lawyers, with offices in London, Singapore and other major financial centres throughout the World. There is a general tradition of professional excellence and collegiality and the London firm's ethos is that of a premier City legal firm.

The firm's success in London has been achieved by focussing on a limited number of practice areas and providing the highest calibre of advice. The London office has expanded significantly over the last two years and is currently embarking upon the next major phase of expansion. Naturally this necessitates the continued recruitment of lawyers of the highest ability.

As a result of the firm's current exponential growth of work, at least six additional banking and structured finance lawyers are sought with experience in one or more of the following areas: securitisation, structured, project or asset finance and cross-border banking generally. In addition there is a requirement for a property finance lawyer.

LONDON	SINGAPORE	LONDON
Four lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in London, two with 2-4 years' ppe and two with 4-8 years' ppe.	Two lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in Singapore, one with 2-4 and the other with 4-8 years' ppe, and qualified in either the UK, US, Australasia, Ireland, S. Africa or Canada.	A property finance lawyer 5+ years' ppe to cover structured property finance and securitisation with some mainstream commercial property work.

As we wish to recruit the best lawyers from the best law firms, the remuneration packages will be appropriate to match candidates' aspirations. There is a proven fast-track to partnership.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox, Gareth Quarry or Deborah Dalgleish 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Email: adrian@qdrec.demon.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall Recruitment and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

**40 KING STREET CHAMBERS**

are pleased to announce that

**MR. PHILIP RAYNOR Q.C.**

has succeeded Mr. John Hoggett Q.C. as head of chambers.

Members of chambers are:

- |                      |                     |                 |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Philip Raynor Q.C.   | John Barrett        | Lesley Anderson |
| John Hoggett Q.C.    | Sonia Gal           | Matthew Smith   |
| Andrew Gilbert Q.C.  | Nicholas Braslavsky | Sally Harrison  |
| Peter Smith Q.C.     | Paul Chaisty        | Martin Carter   |
| Roger Farley Q.C.    | Alan Evans          | Wilson Home     |
| Stephen Saurvin Q.C. | Mark Halliwell      | Lucy Powis      |
| Eric Owen            | Anthony Crean       | Mark Harper     |
| John Jackson         | Simon Hilton        | Stephen Baker   |
| Harold Hilliday      | Katherine Dunn      | Sarah Pritchard |
| Frances Patterson    | Ruth Stockley       | Clare Osborne   |
| Shokat Khan          | Fiona Ashworth      | Richard Lander  |
| Vincent Fraser       | Paul Tucker         | Andrew Latimer  |
| David Manley         | Geoff Pass          |                 |
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40 King Street Manchester M2 6BA Tel: 0161 8329082 Fax: 0161 8352139 DX 718188 (MCH 3).



SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

**SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES**

**JUNIOR COMMERCIAL**

Major utility, based in the Home Counties, seeks a solicitor/barrister of around 2 years' ppe to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave. Candidates must have excellent academics, plus a heavyweight commercial background with experience in either joint ventures, project finance or loan agreements. Ref: 29904

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

6 month contract for a 3-6 years' qualified solicitor to work in a small team for this medium-sized law firm. Candidates will be handling high profile patent claims, licenses and distribution agreements. To start immediately. Ref: 30089

**COMPANY/BANKING**

International bank based in the City seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2-6 years' ppe to act as number 2 lawyer in a small legal department. Candidates must have practical knowledge of company law, contract law, ISDA documentation and banking documentation. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 17210

**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL**

Solicitor with 3-6 years' ppe sought by insurance company. Candidates should have a strong company/commercial background and will be assisting the head of legal with a heavy workload in relation to high profile matters. Contract will be for 3-6 months and is to start immediately. Ref: 30154

**PLANNING - PART-TIME**

Borough Council based in the Home Counties requires a solicitor/barrister with 5 years' plus experience in planning and commercial contracts. The work is predominantly non-contentious planning including section 106 agreements. Immediate start, 3 days a week for 5 months. Ref: 31189

**CORPORATE**

1-4 years' qualified solicitor sought by leading City law firm for a contract which may last up to a year. Candidates must have strong academics and a City firm background. Range of work will be extremely diverse covering takeover bids and defences, acquisitions, disposals, mergers and joint ventures. Ref: 28508

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

Medium-sized commercial firm seeks 3 solicitors to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates must have a minimum of 2 years' experience and will be assisting on a major transaction. Contract will initially be for about 2 months. Ref: 29808

**SENIOR BANKING**

5-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join West London office of finance house. Work covered will range from commercial contracts, banking documentation, managing external solicitors, to giving on the spot customer advice. Contract to start mid-October for 4-5 months. Ref: 31131

**IT CONTRACTS**

IT company based in Home Counties require solicitor/barrister to join their extremely busy legal team as soon as possible. Candidates must have 2-6 years' experience of in-house commercial work with a strong emphasis on IT contracts, as well as a robust personality. Ref: 30180

**COMMERCIAL/EC**

Well established commercial firm seeks a 2-4 year qualified solicitor for their commercial department. Candidates must have good negotiating and drafting skills on the commercial side with strong EC exposure. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 29654

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0662 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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plans to improve our market position still further, we are looking for two Pensions Lawyers to make an immediate and significant contribution to our firm. This is a superb opportunity to enhance your professional skills within a nationally recognised team.

If you join us, you will be acting on behalf of blue-chip companies in various sectors, from industry and retail, to banking and insurance, as well as

pension trustees and high net worth individuals. You will be instrumental in advising on all aspects of pure pensions work, trusteeship and support of other departments.

For the Leeds opportunity you should have two to five years' relevant post-qualification experience. You will have a good understanding of all areas of pensions law, together with a practical and commercial approach and the desire to contribute

in the continued growth of the team's work and reputation. We would also welcome applications from Lawyers with up to two years' relevant experience for either Leeds or Manchester. In both cases, you will enjoy significant client contact and the opportunity to be recognised and rewarded for your contribution.

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To discuss the role in more detail, please contact our advising consultant, Rachael Mann, on 0113 246 1671 (day) or 0113 275 0659 (eve).  
Alternatively, you are welcome to write to her (or fax) at Daniels Bates, Joseph's Well, Hanover Walk, Park Lane, Leeds LS3 1AB. Fax 0113 245 6347. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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You will need knowledge and experience of Employment Law and the ability to deliver legal skills effectively through a team approach. You will undertake the whole range of Employment work but with a strong emphasis on Employment Discrimination and Dismissals. You will also undertake advocacy at the Industrial Tribunal and other civil courts therefore a minimum two years advocacy experience is essential.

You must be a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Justice entitled to practice in England or a Barrister with practical experience to period under Articles.

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We seek an experienced Legal Assistant to undertake the whole range of Conveyancing transactions, although principally Commercial work.

You will need sound knowledge of the basic principals of law and practice relevant to this field of work together with an understanding of the general principals of Administrative Law.

Membership of ILEX and 2 years experience as a Legal Assistant, or an equivalent combination of qualifications, ability and experience is essential.

For an application form and further details please telephone: 0171 525 7547 or 0171 525 7569.

The deadline for completed application forms is Friday 8th November 1996.



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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry or Deborah Dalgleish on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Daugall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis and any direct or third party application will be forwarded to Quarry Daugall Recruitment.



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Nottingham Law School has established a pre-eminent reputation for:

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- the leading advocacy law school - the UK provider of NITA advocacy programmes

We now offer the Bar Vocational course for up to 120 students from September 1997. We are recruiting at senior and principal lecturer level a team of barristers with practical experience to develop and deliver the course. You will have experience of civil and/or criminal practice. You will teach a range of professional skills, and will contribute to one of the academic core subjects on our PGDL (graduate conversion) course. Previous teaching experience is not required, but you should be willing to learn and develop tutoring techniques as part of a highly professional team.

There may be opportunities to enhance your salary through consultancy to our NITA (UK) advocacy and masters programmes. We can offer flexible working patterns, including proportionate contracts.

Salary scales: Principal Lecturer, £25,476 - £32,031 pa  
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer, up to £26,931 pa

For an informal discussion, please feel free to contact Philip Knott on (0115) 9486875.

Further details and application forms are available from Personnel Services, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU, by telephoning (0115) 9486522 (24 hour answering service).

Post Ref No: L0420/TIM. Closing date: 11 November 1996. Proposed interview dates: 2/3 December 1996.

For all vacancies see our Internet page <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/personnel>.

CVs will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form.

We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.

**COMPANY COMMERCIAL** - Southampton - Permanent opportunity to join friendly and supportive team setting on quality business. Top 250 for 20 years. Call Macdonald & Co. (Apt) Tel: 01747 825337. Fax: 01747 825337.

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**DEFENDANT IN OUTSIDE AREA** - Sol. 3 yrs + PGE for related specialist. Call Macdonald & Co. (Apt) Tel: 01747 825337. Fax: 01747 825337.

**FRENCH LAWYER** available to give tuition in English or French. £20 individual £30 group tuition. 0173 228152.

**LITIGATORS** - 2 Woking - 2 positions. Sol. 3 yrs + PGE for 2 growing High Street practices. Salary and opportunity to contribute to practice development. Call Macdonald & Co. (Apt) Tel: 01747 825337. Fax: 01747 825337.

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- The most comprehensive materials available to prepare candidates for the Bar Exam (the MPRE) including a computer software package.
- Complete assessment throughout the course including a computer graded simulated M. B. E.
- Course rated "Excellent" by delegates attending the January 1996 course.
- Full post-course employment & immigration service.

Over 500,000 attorneys have qualified with BAR/BR over the past 25 years. Our European programmes continue the reputation for excellence associated with all BAR/BR programmes.

Come to our Open Evening on Wed. November 13, 1996 at Florida State University, 103 Gt. Russell St., London WC1E 7JF. Fee: 1997/8 Part-time courses £1,200 (incl. V.A.T.). 1997/8 Intensive courses £1,500 (incl. V.A.T.).

For a brochure contact: BAR/BR, 28 Upper Montagu Street, London W1H 1RP. Tel: 0171 706 0644. Fax: 0171 701 5964. E-mail: [bar@barbr.com](mailto:bar@barbr.com). Celebrating 25 years of excellence.

## The members of chambers at 9-12 Bell Yard

are pleased to announce that

**Peter Rouch QC**  
(with effect from 1st January 1997 presently of Iscoed Chambers, Swansea)

**Richard Merz**  
(formerly of 9 Gough Square)

and

**Tina Davey, Richard Danbury and Jessica Gavron**  
(having completed pupillage in chambers)

have accepted invitations to join chambers.

Members of Chambers:

Edmund Lawson QC	Tudor Owen	Philippa McAtamney
D Anthony Evans QC	Alexander Crambrook	Mohammed Khamis
Alex Carle QC MF	Peter Doyle	Tracey Elliot
Jeremy Carter-Manning QC	Stephen John	Mark Bryant-Heron
Michael Birbaum QC	John Harwood Stevenson	Rosina Cottage
Patrick Curran QC	Timothy Spencer	William Hughes
Sonia Woodley QC	Philip Katz	Adrian Chaplin
Peter Rouch QC	Peter Moss	Alexandra Eady
Herbert Kerrigan QC (Soc.)	Keith Hadrill	Mark Seymour
Edward Grayson	Michael Ormalk	Richard Jory
Peter Canton	Dianne Chan	Warwick Tatford
Richard Cherrill	John Albon Williams	Suzanne Reeve
Martin Field	John McGinness	Jonathan Kline
Richard Marx	Michael Egan	Christina Russell
Alison Barker	Sean Enright	Tina Davey
John Greaves	Mukol Chawla	Richard Danbury
Anthony Heaton-Armstrong	Christine Laling	Jessica Gavron

Senior Clerk: Gary Reed

9-12 Bell Yard, London, WC2A 2LF  
Tel: 0171 400 1800. Fax: 0171 404 1405 DX: 390 Chancery Lane

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The Citco Group is a rapidly expanding financial services group of trust companies and banks with over 25 offices in 14 countries.

The Citco Group is looking for a young, dynamic, company/commercial lawyer with between 0-2 years' ppe, ideally from a leading City practice to be based in the British Virgin Islands and act as a Trust Officer.

The role of a Trust Officer encompasses a wide range of duties from the preparation and administration of trusts and the incorporation and maintenance of international business companies to registrar and transfer agency services for mutual funds and unit trusts.

The position offers an excellent salary and benefits, with a non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance, relocation expenses and with excellent prospects for the right candidate for a further career in the Citco Group of companies.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hoar or Rebecca Errington on 0171-405 6062 (0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Email seamus@qdrec.demon.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall Recruitment and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.



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HEAD OF LEGAL AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

POLYGRAM FILM OPERATIONS

PolyGram is one of the largest and most successful entertainment companies in the world. An exemplary opportunity has arisen for a senior lawyer to assume the role of Head of Legal and Business Affairs.

The existing department is responsible for the provision of legal advice on all aspects of the exploitation of rights within film, television and video industries.

Additionally, the successful appointee will have integral involvement in the implementation of a new computerised rights availability system and will be required to assist in the implementation of such a system.

The ideal individual will have a minimum of five years' relevant post qualification experience, and must be able to clearly demonstrate managerial capabilities.

feature film experience is a pre-requisite.

Key personal attributes will include a highly developed commercial awareness and the ability to understand wider business and legal issues.

To succeed in this outstanding and challenging position, candidates will need to possess the self confidence to undertake a pivotal role within an expanding and highly competitive operation, and the ability to interact at the highest levels of senior management.

Naturally, your significant contribution will be properly recognised. The remuneration package will include an excellent basic salary, car allowance and other attractive benefits.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Deborah Kirkman and Ben Williams on behalf of Robert Walters Associates. Any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact either of them on 0171 379 3333 (confidential fax 0171 915 8714) or alternatively write to them at 25 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9HP enclosing a full CV E-mail: debbie.kirkman@robertwalters.com



ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES



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HM Diplomatic Service Assistant Legal Adviser

Central London

Legal staff are based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London with frequent opportunities for overseas travel. They may also serve one or more tours of duty in one of HM Missions overseas and advise delegations at international meetings and conferences.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Legal Advisers specialise in public international law and certain aspects of European Community law. The work involves advising on the legal aspects of foreign policy, drafting agreements and legislation, conducting negotiations with other governments and international organisations and handling Human Rights cases and cases before the International Court of Justice.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Candidates must be qualified as an advocate, barrister or solicitor in any part of the UK, with relevant post-qualification experience in legal practice, teaching or research or in an international organisation. Knowledge of French and/or another widely used European language would be an advantage. Candidates must be British citizens and be able to show a close connection with the United Kingdom.

Salary for the grade is in the range £29,844 - £42,325, starting salary will be determined according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 13th November 1996) please write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke 01256 468551 (24 hours) or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B3118.

The Diplomatic Service is an equal opportunity employer.

RUSSIA

Legal and Human Rights Call-Down Consultancy

The Know How Fund (KHF) wishes to engage consultants/institutions to provide a call down consultancy service to support the provision of technical assistance for legal and human rights reform in Russia.

The overall objectives of the call down consultancy would be to provide advice in the following areas:

- Human Rights
• Reform of the Russian Legal system and Judiciary
• Police Reform in Russia
• Reform of the Russian Criminal Justice System
• Reform of Russian prisons and detention centres.

The consultant/institution would be expected to have access to the wide range of legal expertise identified by the assignment; a good overall knowledge of the Russian legal system, police, prison service and issues of human rights; and an understanding of the international legal and judicial institutions. These skills may be in-house, but can also be called in as and when required. It is essential that the institution has experience of managing external contracts.

In the first instance the contract will be awarded for a twelve month period from January 1997. It is anticipated that up to 90 days (with scope to increase the number of days) for the provision of technical inputs should be allowed for the first year. Project management and administrative inputs are additional.

If your firm/institution is interested in being short listed for this engagement you should contact Miss H Thomson, Ref No AH364/HT/TT, Overseas Development Administration, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, telephone 01355 843525 to obtain further details of the information which must be submitted by 7 November 1996.



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION BRITAIN HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

Director of Legal Affairs & Company Secretary

Central London

c.£70,000 + benefits

Quoted on the London Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation in excess of £100m, our client is a technology based group of companies serving the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. A World market leader in its two key product areas, the Group is now poised to begin a period of expansion through organic growth and acquisition.

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In addition to establishing and maintaining the Group's legal policies and managing all Company Secretarial duties, the Director of Legal Affairs will be expected to take an active

role in Group acquisitions as well as having significant involvement in shaping the future direction of the organisation.

Candidates should have in excess of 8 years' post qualification experience, preferably with a training in a top City law firm followed by demanding and broad experience of in-house legal work, encompassing both corporate and company/commercial issues. With a high degree of business acumen, the individual must be a pro-active team player with strong communication skills who is a focused problem solver. This is a superb opportunity for an assertive and flexible lawyer with strong strategic vision and drive to contribute actively to the direction and shape of this exciting business.

Interested candidates should write, enclosing a full CV, to Juliet Shepherd at the address below. All applications will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.



Alderwick Peachell Limited, Recruitment Consultants, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA. Tel:0171 404 1155. Fax: 0171 404 0140.

Director of Legal Services

This is a senior position in the world's leading animal welfare charity. The RSPCA is involved as a front-runner in improving standards of animal welfare at home, in Europe and worldwide. In consequence it operates on a high profile basis, from the work carried out by its Inspectors, Hospitals and Animal Centres, to working with government officials at the highest level to change the standards of welfare.

You will head up a team of qualified staff, with responsibility for all of the Society's legal work. This includes drafting and advising on UK and European legislation, prosecutions, property, legacies, legal advice to the Society's Council and staff, as well as providing a Company secretarial service to the Society.

You will have a broad based legal background in order to deal with the range of work, together with managerial experience gained in local government, commerce or industry.

A competitive salary is offered; other benefits include a car, health insurance and contributory pension.

Please apply in writing on a postcard for further details and an application form to:

RSPCA Ref No. L99/243 Personnel Services Department RSPCA, Casework, Moreham West Sussex BN12 1JH

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 1 November 1996.

Evans Dodd BRIGHT YOUNG LAWYER

Small international firm specialising in company and commercial work, based in attractive offices in the heart of Mayfair and with a stimulating entrepreneurial client base need a City-trained assistant solicitor with 1/2 years experience since qualification. Please send resumes to John Cott, 5 Balfour Place, Mount Street, London W1Y 5RG.

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This small but well known Holborn commercial practice is expanding its non-contentious departments to maintain the high standards of performance that its clients expect. As a result the following vacancies are available:

Commercial property. Newly qualified or up to 2 yrs POE. Must have good communication abilities and be able to work in an organised manner.

Company commercial. 2 yrs POE +. Should be able to handle a wide variety of company and commercial transactions including M&A.

Computer literacy an advantage. We offer good terms (including private medical fees scheme) and prospects with this firm are excellent for the right applicants.

Apply in writing, please, to:

D Sprecher Esq. SPRECHER GRIER HANOVER HOUSE 73/74 HIGH HOLBORN LONDON WC1V 6LS

LONDON LAW

Leading independent company formation agent seeks lawyer or Chartered Secretary to assist in a busy department catering for specialist legal services. With ability to work alone and be self motivated, you will have contact with clients direct and deal with queries as they arise. Knowledge of company law useful but not essential. Applications in writing with C.V. to: Barbara Kelly, The London Law Agency Ltd, 84 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0HP.

PEACHEY & CO Solicitors

On Monday 21st October 1996 we moved offices to 95 Aldwych London WC2B 4JF Tel: 0171 316-5200 Fax: 0171 316-5222



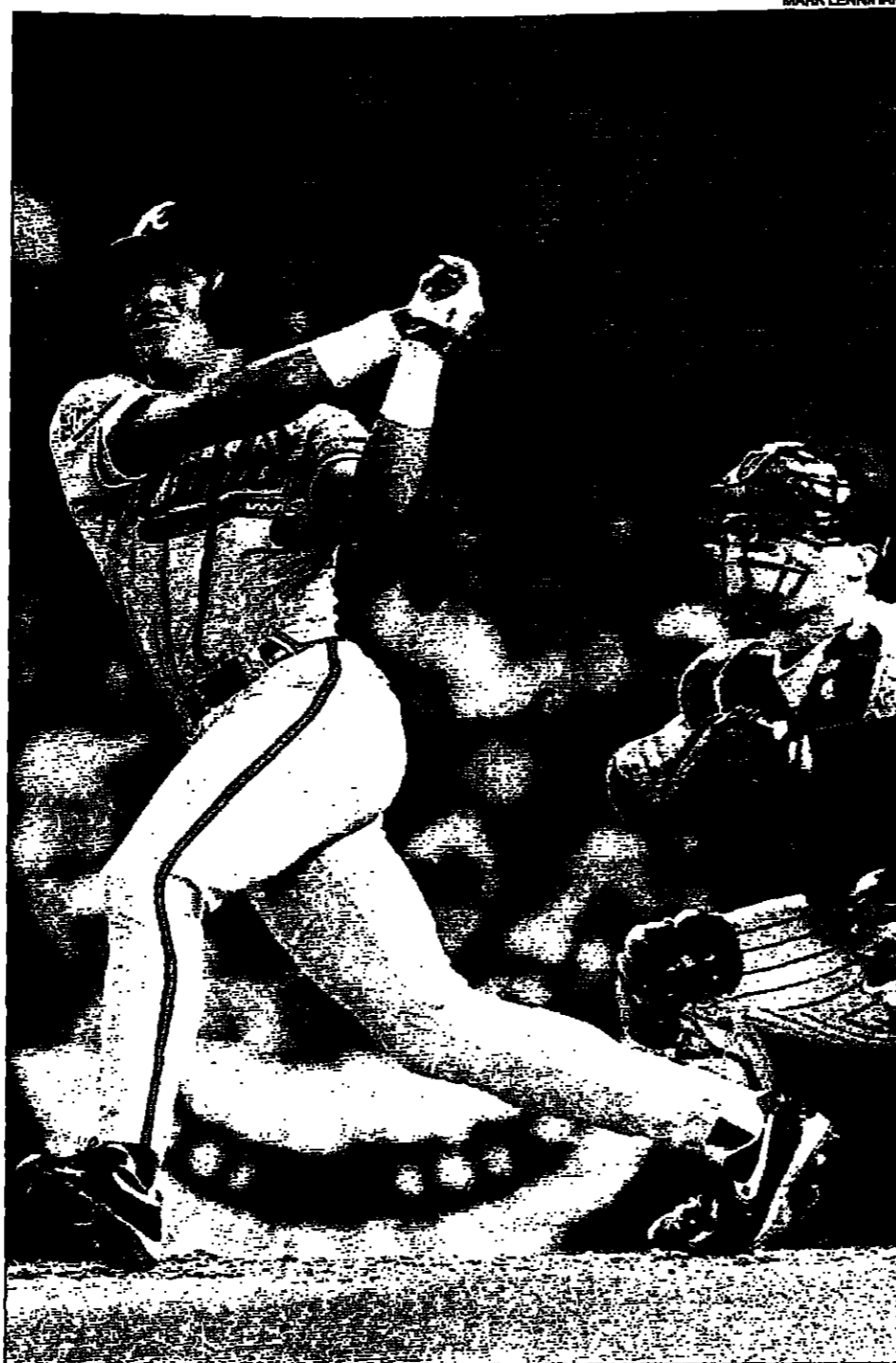
BASEBALL: ATLANTA NEW BOY HUMBLER NEW YORK YANKEES

Jones is an instant hit in World Series

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN NEW YORK

A STAR was born as the World Series got under way in Yankee Stadium on Sunday night, but he was not wearing the famous New York Yankee pinstripes.

Minor League player of the year in each of the past two seasons before being thrown into the deep end with Atlanta this September.



Jones looks satisfied at his home run in the top of the second inning on Sunday

while conceding two. Since their strength is generally regarded as being their pitching, the sudden outbreak of hitting has turned a powerful team into an unstoppable one.

not to register at least a hit and Fred McGriff added another home run. The Yankees had no answer to either the hitting or the pitching and went into the game here last night knowing that they had to win to have much chance of surviving the next three games.

Jones, who hails from Curaçao, in the Caribbean (hence the Dutch spelling of his first name), had been voted the

most popular player in the World Series.

DETAILS FROM GAME ONE. Table with columns for Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees, and rows for Runs, Hits, Errors.

SNOOKER

Wattana's confidence receives a timely lift

By Phil Yates

JAMES WATTANA, who a week today will lead Thailand against China in a group match on day one of the World Cup in Bangkok, yesterday continued to bask in the relative anonymity that he has discovered in the Grand Prix in Bournemouth.

In his native country, Wattana is the centre of attention. However, after falling to twentieth in the updated provisional world rankings, he does not generate anywhere near that fanatical interest in Britain and the pressure that he feels comes from the need to arrest his slide rather than to meet the expectations of his countrymen.

During a 5-2 victory over Paul McPhillips of Glasgow, Wattana displayed the outstanding break-building that carried him to numerous titles in the early Nineties, alongside the type of unforgeable mistakes that have caused his slump.

That brilliance disappeared during the course of the 20-minute intermission. On the resumption, Wattana lost a scrappy fifth frame and McPhillips would surely have levelled at 3-3 but for missing a simple brown with the rest and, later, the pink.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Srinath rescues India after crowd trouble

INDIA beat Australia by two wickets, with seven balls to spare, in a triangular series match in Bangalore yesterday after supporters, protesting against the dismissal of Mohammed Azharuddin, forced a 20-minute stoppage in play. The batsman was clearly unhappy with the decision by umpire S.K. Bansal, and spectators began to hurl plastic bottles on to the playing area.

Grand prix on move

MOTORCYCLING: Donington Park is to host the British Grand Prix for the eleventh consecutive year, but the traditional date will be changed. The circuit has secured an agreement with Dorna, which holds the rights to the FIM road racing world championships, to extend the existing arrangements for a further year.

Tough tie for Narberth

RUGBY UNION: Narberth, of the Welsh League third division, without a win this season, will not relish their trip to unbeaten Bridgend Sports, of 8B division central, in the fourth round of the Swansea Cup, on November 23.

Henman's rise continues

TENNIS: Tim Henman, the British No 1, has risen one place to 25, his highest world ranking, after reaching the semi-finals of the Czech indoor tournament last week.

Lyle ruled out for Spain

GOLF: Sandy Lyle, who has fallen to 128th in the PGA European Tour money-list, has had an invitation to the Volvo Masters in Spain this week withdrawn.

Cardiff University of Wales advertisement. BVC Western and Wales Fixed-Term Lectureships: Bar Vocational Course. Includes contact information and details of the course.

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American Football Redskins extend winning run with Giants' scalp. Article by Phil Yates about the Redskins' victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

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14 Chambers Inn Square The Grays of Joanna Dodson QC advertisement. Due to a recent judicial appointment, applications for tenancies.

NFL Details table. Lists National Conference Eastern and Central divisions, and American Conference Eastern and Western divisions with game results.

Today's Fixtures table. Lists various sports fixtures including Football, Rugby League, and Snooker.

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AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION advertisement. Details of various insurance and financial services.









BASEBALL 48 New boy Jones puts Yankees to sword

Interest high in QPR forward

Sinclair heads Tottenham's shopping list

By Peter Ball and Richard Hobson

THE chase for Trevor Sinclair, the Queens Park Rangers forward, intensified yesterday with Everton, Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur signalling their interest...

manoeuvring in the Coca-Cola Cup final victory over Leeds. Doug Ellis, the chairman, confirmed that two Italian clubs, including Perugia, had "expressed an interest" in Milosevic...

tion through the sale of Milosevic. Little would be in a position to bid for Stan Collymore, who has performed spasmodically for Liverpool since his move from Nottingham Forest...

QPR do not have a scheduled board meeting until early November, but there were suggestions yesterday that they might consider the request before that...

Instead, a statement by the League said that further talks with the PFA would be held in the near future. "We are not in a position to divulge the nature of our discussions at the moment, but we will be in communication with the PFA shortly..."

There has been a reprieve for Port Vale. Bill Bell, the chairman, yesterday withdrew his threat to close the club down if a buyer was not found within seven days...



Sinclair: £5m price-tag



Richard Attwood gives his son, Bruce, a few tips before he competes in the Elf Fastrack finals at Silverstone

Attwood aiming for the big time

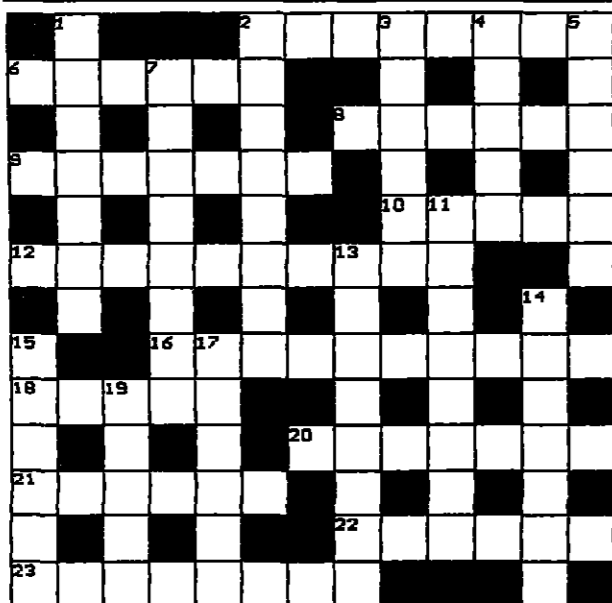
By John Goodbody

IT IS NOT ONLY Damon Hill who is following in his father's car tracks. When Graham Hill, father of the new Formula One world champion, won the 1968 Monaco Grand Prix on the way to the second of his two world titles, another Briton, Richard Attwood, was second...

names who were protégés through this system, including Prost. "Williams said. "If the right man arrives through the scheme, he will emerge as a world championship candidate..."

competition. He is quite reserved and likes to keep things to himself. The only time he really talks about racing is when he is with friends at events such as the British Grand Prix...

TWO CROSSWORD



No 919

- ACROSS: 2 House-buying loan (5); 6 Fairground game (6); 8 School absconder (6); 9 Thrift (7); 10 Skilful (5); 12 Nose kept to it by the busy (10); 16 The enemy personified (6,4); 18 Pipes; valves (5); 20 This heaven the ultimate (7); 21 Decay; rattle (6); 22 Decorative tuft (6); 23 And so on (2,6).

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Campese reaches century

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

DAVID CAMPESE will follow Philippe Sella into the record books tomorrow when he makes his hundredth international appearance for Australia, against Italy, in Padova. Sella, the former France centre now playing for Saracens, retired after the 1995 World Cup with 111 caps and will now concede his unique status of reaching the century...

regarded as one of the world's great centres, on the other. Greg Smith, the Australia coach, believes Horan's broken-field running will gain greater expression from the wing. "I think we will be better served with Tim out wide..."

later stages of the Heineken Cup, have been linked with Federico Mendez, the Argentinian hooker now playing his rugby in Natal. Mendez, a try-scorer in his adopted province's Currie Cup semi-final win over Free State at the weekend, will not make himself available for Argentina's commitments against South Africa and in England, but is considering his future...

Smith loses grip on putter issue

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

DO YOU love 'em or hate 'em? In golf, there are few half measures and few players who do not have a strong opinion about them. You are either for the long-handled putter that has transformed the career of Sam Torrance, among others, or like Colin Montgomerie, you do not want to be in the same room as one. There is a school of thought that wants them to be banned...

breastbone or under the chin while the other hand is placed halfway down the handle. Then the putter is swung as if it is a hinge. Taylor Smith has no particular affection for these implements. Not, at least, after what happened to him at the weekend...

round to go he shared the lead. A first tournament victory in his first season as a professional seemed a real possibility. Then Smith fell foul of one of golf's many rules. The United States Golf Association has decreed that the grips on such putters must be flattened on one side. Halfway through his round he was reported to officials. At the end of the round he was disqualified...

Money for nothing appeals to Lewis

By Sriekumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

LENNOX LEWIS, the British heavyweight, could be in line for another big payment from Don King - once again for doing nothing. Earlier this year, Lewis, the World Boxing Council's (WBC) No 1 contender, picked up \$4 million (about £2.5 million) for agreeing not to meet Mike Tyson and for allowing Tyson to meet Bruce Seldon instead. This time Lewis is taking King, the American promoter, to court to claim \$450,000...



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Graham Gooch English cricket captain

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Uzbek warlord turns mediator and presents proposal for ceasefire

Embattled Taleban weighs deal for Afghan power share

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

A CEASEFIRE could be in the making between forces fighting for control of Kabul, the Afghan capital. Taleban, the Islamic militia that captured the city three weeks ago, said last night it was ready to deal with its enemies - a rare hint at compromise.

Uzbek warlord whose troops and heavy weapons have moved south to support the forces of the former Government, positioned about ten miles north of the city. Taleban has repeatedly refused to negotiate with the old Government: that has been overcome by General Dostum acting as negotiator for both armies.

Any suspension of fighting would offer a chance to negotiate a longer ceasefire; Pakistani mediators are trying to persuade all sides to enter talks. United Nations peace efforts are overshadowed by the Pakistani initiative, to the UN's annoyance. Norbert Holl, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, had some startling observations about Taleban's ignorance of international procedures. Its leaders knew a lot about fighting but little about world or economic factors, he said.



Masood: won support of Dostum's forces

General Dostum has proposed the demilitarisation of Kabul to enable peace negotiations to begin, but Mullah Mohammed Mutaqi, Information and Culture Minister for Taleban, claimed, astonishingly, that the city was already demilitarised and in the hands of the police. That does not tally with the daily test-firing of heavy guns, which continued yesterday.



Taleban fighters march through Hussein Kot village, north of Kabul, after retaking it

Chechen rebel leader gives Russians ten days to pull out

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN NOVYE ATAGI

CHECHNYA'S rebel President, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, gave a warning yesterday that the war in his republic could reignite if Moscow did not withdraw all of its forces by the end of this month.

He also regretted the sacking of Aleksandr Lebed as Moscow's special envoy to Chechnya, but said he was relying on the Russians to stick by the peace agreement signed in August.

"If just one Russian soldier stays here it means the war has not finished," Mr Yandarbiyev told The Times in an interview at his headquarters, ten miles south of Grozny.

General Lebed's peace agreement is continuing to be implemented, with what is a much more rapid troop pull-out than the one from Afghanistan in the late 1990s.

Yesterday the 104th parachute regiment held its departure ceremony and left by rail. The Russians say more than half their troops have now pulled out, although they declined to give any timetable, or name any figures.

But a clash appears to be imminent over the future of the 101st and 205th brigades. Moscow says they are "permanently deployed" in Chechnya and not subject to the pullout. Mr Yandarbiyev said he expected all forces, including those brigades, to leave by the end of this month. Their continued presence, he said, would be a provocation and he could not answer for the consequences.

The issue could be even more explosive after the sacking last week of General Lebed, the author of the Chechen peace plan, and his replacement by Ivan Rybkin who, when Speaker of the Russian Parliament, actively supported the military in Chechnya.

Mr Yandarbiyev said he felt regret at the sacking of General Lebed, but declined to comment on Mr Rybkin, saying only that they had not been in contact.

Shirvani Basayev, a top rebel commander, was more outspoken. He got on well personally with General Le-

bed, a fellow military man, when they met at negotiations, and said the general did "everything possible to stop this war".

But Mr Rybkin was, "small change". "A person who started this war will never end it."

Mr Yandarbiyev, a poet with a black bushy beard, and wearing the traditional Chechen hat of grey and black astrakhan fur, sounded like a man who will stick to a tough line.

The southern half of Chechnya is now completely under his control. Not a single Russian checkpoint remains and armed fighters moved around unhindered. Cars and buildings sport the green, white and red flag of independent Chechnya.

"Can you deny that we are an independent state or do you feel this is part of Russia?" asked Mr Yandarbiyev.

His problem is that he may be eclipsed by his chief military commander, Aslan Maskhadov. Mr Maskhadov negotiated the peace deal and is now the most popular man in Chechnya and Prime Minister of the provisional government. Mr Yandarbiyev would clearly like to be re-elected in polls set for January, but he acknowledged that Mr Maskhadov might stand.

He is also preoccupied with the fate of almost the entire print run of his memoirs; 5,000 copies printed in the Ukraine were seized by Russian customs officials and Mr Yandarbiyev himself has only one copy to show visitors.

He hopes that under independence he may be compensated for his loss.



Kabul's de luxe delights: corn flakes and boiled insects

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

KABUL is a smugglers' town, an Aladdin's Cave of music systems, foreign groceries, cheap watches and, in extreme profusion, some of the world's leading cigarette brands. For beleaguered Britons here craving basic essentials like Heinz baked beans and Mars bars, there are well-stocked shops on Chicken Street.

still adorned with such delights as Kellogg's corn flakes and Cadbury's chocolate - alas, white and crumbly with age - smuggled through Pakistan and Central Asia. A day or two after the Mujahidin invaded on that Saturday in spring, I watched a British television journalist standing forlornly in the middle of Chicken Street as a gunman opened the boot of his taxi and discovered lots of French wine. These were removed and smashed with much ceremony.

Chicken Street is now as dry as the Afghan plains, because alcohol consumption could mean the loss of a

limb under Taleban rule. Even the most famous bootlegger of old, known by the code-name The Chinaman, sticks these days to selling Indian tuna fish, canned fruit juice from the Middle East and the occasional jar of caviar.

The carpet shops in Chicken Street do a middling trade from aid workers and itinerant journalists descending for the occasional big story. These traders are desperate enough to accept a personal cheque for their rugs. They say they are rarely cheated: when they are, the guilty man or woman is liable to receive a visit at home in Europe or

the United States from an expatriate Afghan relative seeking payment. When not at Chicken Street or hurrying around the front line in decrepit taxis, throngs of journalists crash on the floors of houses occupied by hospitable Kabul-based correspondents. The fortunate ones who landed early commandeered rooms at the German Club. The club, which most of the time is empty, has cleared its little theatre and turned it into a dormitory. At night there are snoring bodies in the snooker room and even on the sofas in the dining room.

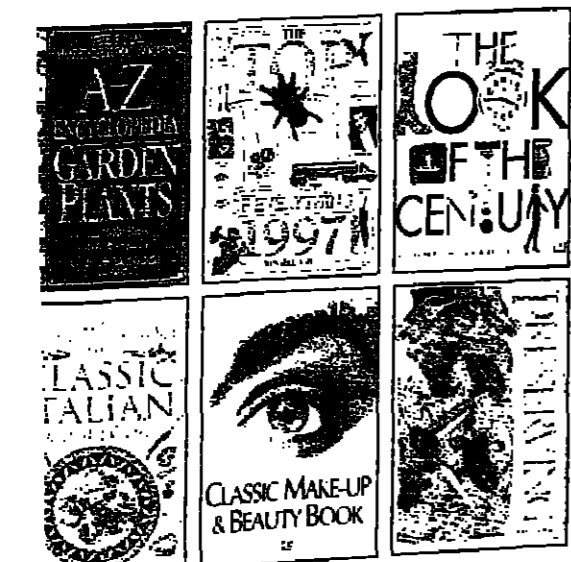
A few years ago the club was redecorated and the Afghan painters found a nice picture in a cupboard, which they put on the wall. It was Hitler inspecting his troops: the manager returned it hurriedly to its dark home. The German Club cooks do well, given their limited resources, but cauliflower is always served with boiled insects.

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Advertisement for PSINet featuring a large image of a person at a computer and text: 'WE FOCUS ON WHAT YOU REALLY WANT FROM THE INTERNET' and 'THE FINE ART OF THE INTERNET'.

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In the second of two excerpts from his collected essays, the poet Joseph Brodsky attempts to persuade an audience of American college students of his belief that only through learning to value boredom can we truly appreciate life

But should you fail to keep your kingdom And, like your father before you come Where thought accuses and feeling mocks, Believe your pain... — W.H. Auden, *Alonso and Ferdinand*

# In praise of boredom

**K**nown under several aliases — anguish, ennui, tedium, doldrums, humdrum, the blahs, apathy, listlessness, stolidity, lethargy, languor, accidie, etc — boredom is a complex phenomenon and, by and large, a product of repetition. It would seem, then, that the best remedy against it would be constant inventiveness and originality. Alas, life's main medium is precisely repetition. One may argue, of course, that repeated attempts at originality and inventiveness are the vehicle of progress and civilisation. As benefits of hindsight go, however, this one is not the most valuable. For should we divide the history of our species by scientific discoveries, not to mention ethical concepts, we will get, technically speaking, centuries of boredom.

The very notion of originality or innovation spells out the monotony of standard reality, of life, whose main idiom is tedium. In that, life differs from art, whose worst enemy is cliché. On the whole, art treats boredom in a self-defensive, satirical fashion. The only way art can become a solace from boredom is if you yourselves become artists. But even should you march out in full force to typewriters, easels and Steinway grands, you won't shield yourselves from boredom entirely. If repetitiveness is boredom's mother, you, young and jewelled, will be quickly smothered by lack of recognition and low pay, both chronic in the world of art. But the other trouble with originality and inventiveness is that they pay off. If you are capable of either, you will become well off rather fast. Desirable as that may be, nobody is as bored as the rich, for money buys time, and time is repetitive.

Everything that displays a pattern is pregnant with boredom. That applies to money in more ways than one, both to the banknotes as such and to possessing them. That is not to bill poverty, of course, as an escape from boredom. All one can suggest is to be a bit more apprehensive of money, for the zeros in your accounts may usher in their mental equivalents. As for poverty, boredom is the

most brutal part of its misery, and the departure from it takes more radical forms: of violent rebellion or drug addiction. In general, a man shooting heroin into his vein does so largely for the same reason you buy a video: to dodge the redundancy of time. On the whole, the difference in tacitly between a syringe's needle and a stereo's push button roughly corresponds to that between the acuteness and dullness of time's impact upon the have-nots and the haves. In short, whether rich or poor, sooner or later you will be afflicted by this redundancy of time. Potential haves, you'll be bored with your work, your friends, your spouses, your lovers, the view from your window, the furniture or wallpaper in your room, your thoughts, yourselves. Accordingly, you'll try to devise ways of escape. You may take up changing jobs, residence, company, country, climate; you may take up promiscuity, alcohol, travel, cooking lessons, drugs, psychoanalysis.

For a while that may work. Until the day, of course, when you wake up in your bedroom amid a new family and a different wallpaper, in a different state and climate, with a heap of bills from your travel agent and your shrunk, yet with the same stale feeling toward the light of day pouring through your window. Depending on your temperament or the age you are, you will either panic or resign yourself to the familiarity of the sensation; or else you'll go through the rigmarole of change once more. There is yet another way out of it, however. Those of you who have read Robert Frost's *Servant's* may remember a line of his: *The best way out is always through.* So what

even of your best, most ardent actions, is better than the illusion of their consequences and the attendant self-aggrandisement. For boredom is an invasion of time into your set of values. It puts your existence into its perspective. The more you learn about your own size, the more humble and the more compassionate you become to your likes, to the flecks of dust in a sunbeam or atop your table. You are to those flecks what time is to you; that's why they look so small. And do you know what the dust says when it's being wiped off the table? *Remember me, whispers the dust.* I have quoted these lines by the German poet Peter Hühnel because I, like them, because I recognise myself in them. "Remember me," says the dust. And one hears in this that if we learn about ourselves

I am about to suggest is a variation on the theme. When hit by boredom, go for it. In general, with things unpleasant, the rule is, the sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface. The idea here, to paraphrase another great poet of the English language, is to exact full look at the worst. The reason boredom deserves such scrutiny is that it represents time in all its repetitive, redundant, monotonous splendour. Boredom is your window on time's infinity, which is to say, on your insignificance in it. Once this window opens, don't try to shut it; on the contrary, throw it wide open. For boredom is to teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance. "You are finite," time tells you in a voice of boredom, "and whatever you do is, from my point of view, futile." The sense of futility, of limited significance

of your best, most ardent actions, is better than the illusion of their consequences and the attendant self-aggrandisement. For boredom is an invasion of time into your set of values. It puts your existence into its perspective. The more you learn about your own size, the more humble and the more compassionate you become to your likes, to the flecks of dust in a sunbeam or atop your table. You are to those flecks what time is to you; that's why they look so small. And do you know what the dust says when it's being wiped off the table? *Remember me, whispers the dust.* I have quoted these lines by the German poet Peter Hühnel because I, like them, because I recognise myself in them. "Remember me," says the dust. And one hears in this that if we learn about ourselves

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from time, perhaps time, in turn, may learn something from us. What would that be? That inferior in significance, we best it in sensitivity. This is what it means — to be insignificant. If it takes will-paralysing boredom to bring this home, then hail the boredom. You are insignificant because you are finite. Yet the more finite a thing is, the more it is charged with life, emotions, joy, fears, compassion. For infinity is not terribly lively, not terribly emotional. Your boredom is the boredom of infinity. Respect it for its origins — as much perhaps as for your own. Because it is the anticipation of that inanimate infinity that accounts for the intensity of human sentiments, often resulting in a conception of a new life. This is not to say that you have been conceived out of boredom, or that the finite breeds the finite. It is to suggest, rather, that passion is the privilege of the insignificant.

Passion, above all, is a remedy against boredom. Another one, of course, is pain — physical more so than psychological, passion's frequent aftermath; although I wish you neither. Still, when you hurt you know that at least you have not been deceived (by your body or by your psyche). By the same token, what is good about boredom is that it is not a deception. Try to embrace, or let yourself be embraced by, boredom and anguish. Endure it as long as you can, and then some more. Do not think you have goofed somewhere along the line, don't try to retrace your steps to correct the error. As the poet said, "Believe your pain." This awful bear hug is no mistake. Nothing that disturbs you is. Remember, there is no embrace in this world that won't finally unclasp.

I wish you nothing but happiness. Still, there will be plenty of dark and dull hours. You ought to be fortified against that in some fashion; and that's what I've tried to do here. For what lies ahead is a remarkable but wearisome journey; you are boarding today, as it were, a runaway train. No one can tell you what lies ahead, least of all those who remain behind. One thing, however, they can assure you of is that it is not a round trip. Try to derive some comfort from the notion that no matter how unpalatable this or that station may turn out to be, the train doesn't stop there for good.

*Abridged from On Grief and Reason: Essays by Joseph Brodsky, published by Hamish Hamilton on October 31, £20. © Joseph Brodsky 1996*



Boredom can teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance

**The sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface**

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One day I realised - work's coming right, the flat's looking great - but look at me!

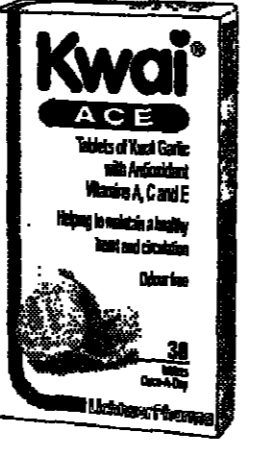
So first it was the new diet (goodbye to all those fatty foods) and then starting regular exercise. I bought a bike - now I cycle to work every day. I also tried Kwai ACE. It's a supplement that could help keep my heart healthy, by combining garlic's benefits with added vitamins A,C and E. The ACE vitamins are antioxidants that help protect the body's tissues against free radicals.

The effort has been worth it and I feel like a new person. Certainly something must be different. I met a friend from my old life in London the other day, but only after she walked straight past me without a glimmer of recognition.

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PULPIT AND POLITICS

A Catholic contribution to a widening debate

The boundaries between pulpit and politics have rarely been so permeable this century as they are now. Politicians have been competing to appropriate parts of the Christian message for their parties like pilgrims grasping at fragments of the True Cross.

encyclical *Centesimus Annus* and is reflected in every page of *The Common Good*. In its content and in particular its warmth towards a minimum wage, its invocation of "stakeholding", its wariness towards the extension of market disciplines in health and education and its support for trade unions, it is not congenial reading for robust free-marketters.

A PROVISIONAL VERDICT

Japan has voted for the LDP but not for its bad old ways

Three years ago Japanese voters, disgusted by a series of corruption scandals, broke the Liberal Democratic Party's 38-year monopoly on power in elections whose main theme was the imperative of cleaning the political house.

which secured a remarkable 52 of the total 500 parliamentary seats. As Mr Hashimoto admits, the LDP has yet to recover the voters' confidence. It is back only on sufferance, and only in the absence of a convincing alternative.

BALLOONS OVER BRUSSELS

Belgium has lost its innocence without finding a role

Never have Belgians been so united. Across linguistic divides, party loyalties and cultural boundaries, thousands of Belgians took to the streets in anger, frustration and shame.

squalid deals of a political class that has failed the nation. What ordinary Belgians are demanding is not only justice for the murdered children, but an end to the cosy political relationships that have created a system where the protection of cronies is more important than exposure of wrongdoing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Press report of barred evidence

From Mr William Clegg, QC Sir, When Colin Stagg was found not guilty of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common he might have hoped that the verdict would be accepted by the police and the press. If so that hope was in vain.

'Flawed' funding damages NHS

From Mr C. B. T. Adams, FRCS Sir, No one doubts the Government has increased its overall spending on the NHS in recent years (Conservative conference report, October 12). However, the level of government funding is such that increasingly the NHS is providing an emergency service: patients needing elective surgery are having to wait longer, or go without, or pay for it.

Discord on college composition rule

From Professor Alexander Goehr Sir, In the last 50 years musical composition has come to occupy an increasingly important role in musical education, from GCSE to PhD.

Cheltenham College

From Mr and Mrs Keith Douglas Sir, You reported on October 17 (see also report, October 19, early editions; *Diary*, October 21) that the Cheltenham College headmaster, Peter Wilkes, has been forced to resign by the college council, apparently because of disappointing A-level results.

Fall in Labour lead

From Mr Frank Allau Sir, The nine-point drop in Labour's lead over the Conservatives shown in yesterday's *Sunday Times* NOP poll (report, October 21) substantiates the warnings by many active Labour Party members.

On the run

From Mr Julian Ellis Sir, It is not Mr M. Gee (letter, October 16) who is missing anything when he queries the wisdom of placing a prisoner the police describe as dangerous in an open prison to prepare him for release.

Referendum issue

From Mr K. A. Gottlieb Sir, It is not difficult to attract devotees to a single-purpose party: the simple purity is seductive and there are no distractions such as reality, responsibility and the like.

Bullying in schools

From Mr Fitzroy Ponniah Sir, Your report "Sikh pupil found dead after writing of school misery" (October 17) is very sad and disturbing: sad because of the loss of a priceless life and apparently a very bright one.

Visiting opera praised

From Mr Chris Viveash Sir, I was dismayed to read your open critic's review (October 15) of the Romanian National Opera's visit to the Hippodrome Theatre, Bristol.

Nobel prizewinner

From Mr Christopher J. Nutt Sir, Of course James Mirrlees is correct in thinking that there is an optimum level of taxation (letter, October 14), just as there is of other extortions — including physical torture.

Thought for today

From Mrs Anne Atkins Sir, I like Mr Lawlor's suggestion (letter, October 19) that *Thought for the Day* should consist of a period of silent reflection on a passage from the Bible, the Talmud, or the Koran.

Making allowances

From Mr Ian D. Bruce Sir, Some years ago, in the days when wages were paid by cash in a paypacket (letter, October 18), I had to try to persuade our workforce to disregard the Truck Acts and accept payment by credit transfer.

Art of illusion?

From Dr Denis Cashman Sir, Mr Stephen Walters (letter, October 16) is mistaken in assuming that a piece of writing must rhyme and scan to qualify for the title of "poem".

Waving not drowning?

From Mr Niels Kelsted Sir, On page 3 today (later editions), a report on Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall informed me that their marriage "appeared to be floundering".

Keeping one's hair on

From Mrs Georgette Behar Sir, Once again I see you have used the derogatory term "blue rinse" when describing women of a certain age, usually Tory, though in this case (October 17) in Richard Morrison's review of Sir Cliff Richard in *Wuthering Heights*.

Business letters, page 31

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 21: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Baroness Miller of Hendon...

The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, this evening attended a Banquet given by the Keepers of the Quach at Blair Castle...

Royal engagements
The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. Prince Edward will attend a concert followed by Reading Retreat...

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Franz Liszt, composer, Raiding, Hungary, 1811; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, Paris, 1844.

Appointments
Mr Christopher Battiscombe to be Ambassador to Jordan, from April 1997, in succession to Mr Peter Hinchcliffe who will be retiring.

Baron Rogers of Riverside
The life barony conferred upon Sir Richard George Rogers has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Rogers of Riverside...

Today's birthdays
Lord Birkett, 67; Colonel J.N. Blashford-Snell, explorer, 60; Mr R.P. Bowman, chairman, Covent Garden Market Authority, 64...

Church news
The Rev Graham Knott, Team Vicar, Newark Christ Church, Newark, Team Ministry; to be Priest-in-charge, St John the Evangelist, Mansfield (Southwell).



Veterans of First World War naval battles: Jack Gearing, aged 102, and George Finch, 103 tomorrow

The Navy's Grand Old Men meet again

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Grand Old Men of the Royal Navy, the last of the few survivors of the famous naval battles of the First World War, gathered in London yesterday...

War. Wearing eight medals, three from the First World War and five from the 1939-45 War, he said he served in the cruiser HMS Thetanus at Gallipoli and helped the troops to land...

German submarine. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He recalled: "I was the look-out man. We were going about 14 knots when I spotted the submarine's periscope..."



As he was: Jack Gearing ready for action in 1915

On one occasion Able Seaman Gearing carried up the beach a soldier who had lost a leg and on another he had to tell a wounded soldier to stop screaming for fear of alerting the enemy...

Mr Gearing and his fellow survivors from the 1914-18 naval campaigns gathered at the Imperial War Museum in honour of a book about the Royal Navy which details their own wartime careers...

Bill Bullen, 96, who served in the Admiralty in HMS Gloucester in the First World War and in HMS Worcester at Dunkirk in the 1939-45 War, was also present...

Zebruch his ship, HMS Iris, was hit by German shells, one of which killed the captain and the major of Marines. Another shell killed 49 Marines.

BMD5: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
BRID - On October 19th at St Thomas' Hospital, to Emma (née English) and Alan, a son, Marcus Henry Williams.

DEATHS
RAMPTON - Peacefully on Sunday 20th October 1996 aged 82 years, Margaret...

DEATHS
SMITH - Peacefully on Sunday 20th October 1996 aged 82 years, Margaret...

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MEMORIAL SERVICES
SPEDDING - A Service of Thanksgiving for the late Tom Spedding will be held on Friday, November 1st...

TICKETS FOR SALE
FLATSHARE
FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CAPITAL FLIGHTS
FOR SALE
MORNING SUITS
EVENING TAIL SUITS
AIRLINE
WORLDWIDE
FLIGHTS
OVERSEAS TRAVEL
GIFTS

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL SIR ANTHONY GRIFFIN

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, GCB, Controller of the Navy, 1971-75, and chairman of British Shipbuilders, 1977-80, died on October 16 aged 75. He was born in Peshawar on November 24, 1920.



AS AN Assistant Chief of Naval Staff in the Admiralty, and subsequently as Controller, Tony Griffin played an important part in the redesign of the country's ships and weapons in the aftermath of Denis Healey's decision in 1966 not to continue with large aircraft carriers...

Griffin was appointed to the cruiser Gloucester in 1939, flagship of the East Indies Squadron, with the Admiral's yellow Rolls-Royce parked between the funnels. Her war started with anti-pocket-battleship patrols off Madagascar...

going to the Far East in the escort carrier Empress, being again mentioned in dispatches. With a promotion to commander in 1951 and to captain in 1956, his postwar appointments included navigating the battleship Anson...

BILL BEDFORD



Bill Bedford, OBE, AFC, former test pilot, died on October 20 aged 75. He was born on November 18, 1920.

UNIVERSALLY known as "Bill", Alfred William Bedford died more than any other test pilot to take postwar British military aircraft to the edges of established technology. He developed an immediate interest in aeroplanes and, as soon as he was able, joined the RAF...

SIR JEREMY ROWE

Sir Jeremy Rowe, CBE, industrialist, died on September 28 aged 67. He was born on October 31, 1928.

JEREMY ROWE'S long and distinguished career in industry and in the public sector reflected the turbulent changes of the Thatcher era

and involved him in several controversial issues of the time. As chairman of the London Brick Company, he fought with conviction for the company's independent future against an ultimately successful takeover bid by Hanson.

Rowe, keen to follow in the family tradition, won a scholarship to train in the brick industry in America, which he took up after completing his degree in history at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Beginning as a trainee in the marketing division, he rose steadily through the ranks and was finally appointed chairman in 1979, a post which he was to fill for five years.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION... YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION...

RENTALS

2-BEDROOM FLAT/Flatlet... 2000/yr Long let 0973 730005.

LEGAL NOTICES

Administrative Liquidation... Notice to Creditors of the Liquidation of the Companies...

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION... CHURCHILL'S STAIRLIFTS... THE STAIRLIFT EXPERTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH... KIDNEY... BURSTOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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After the takeover Rowe wanted to get out and an opportunity arose almost immediately. It was the time of Norman Fowler's reform of the social services and the Government was looking for an independent chairman for a tricky review of housing benefit.

Environment was persuaded to endorse a deal by which one of the most important "community related assets", the 1,600-acre Nene Park, was handed over in perpetuity to an independent trust endowed from the proceeds of the corporation's commercial developments and free from any risk of political interference.

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF:

CBS (Shedding) Limited... Notice to Creditors of the Liquidation of the Companies... Date: 7 October 1996.

THE MORRIS

Exceptional value is clearly offered in the Morris Isis Six, and the model should be well able to hold its own at home and abroad against foreign competition...

ON THIS DAY

October 22, 1931

At this interwar London Motor Show many makes were exhibited that are now only names from the past - Lancia, Minerva, Hotchkiss and Marmon among them.

A majestic-looking car is the Thirty-Five Daimler enclosed limousine, which has a Barker body to seat seven. The price of the complete car is £1,875, and of the chassis £1,050.

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES... Please send Court Page announcements by post to: Mrs J. Nempe, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.

Good Health in Old Age

Help us to deliver the greatest gift of all. Every donation or legacy makes a difference. RESEARCH INTO AGING... Improving the Quality of Later Life.

DAIMLER

A majestic-looking car is the Thirty-Five Daimler enclosed limousine, which has a Barker body to seat seven. The price of the complete car is £1,875, and of the chassis £1,050.

Business week offers design for better living

By Sally Watts

OWNER MANAGERS of new and growing businesses can learn how design should stimulate sales at a forum to be held next week. The Achieving Success Through Effective Design forum will take place at Bromley on October 30. It is one of 30 events - many for smaller enterprises - being held around Britain in the first annual Design In Business Week...

Focusing on the timeless appeal of classic cameras

By David Askham

CONVENTIONAL film technology sounds out of place in today's photographic world of digital imaging, yet in a modern workshop in Andover a small business is continuing to make large format mahogany, brass and leather-bellows cameras pioneered by Louis Gandolfi more than 100 years ago. There is a continuing worldwide demand for these classic cameras...



Brian Gould, managing director, left, and Eddie Hill with a range of their Gandolfi and Corfield cameras

Variant - utilising modern materials and construction techniques. These cameras find favour with photographers who appreciate their precision and value for money. They are also unique in that they can be adapted quickly to accommodate three film sizes. Cameras made by Gandolfi range in price from £797 to £3,000. Lenses are extra. A comprehensive range of ancillary equipment is also made or supplied.

Mr Gould says: "We operate in a very competitive global market of which we have a very satisfying share. Specialisation and limited diversity help us to exploit our unique niche market. Gandolfi cameras have been made continuously since the 1880s. They have remained popular because they are traditionally rugged and reliable and appeal to medical, advertising, landscape and architectural photographers."

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Heseltine promises to streamline state aid for small businesses

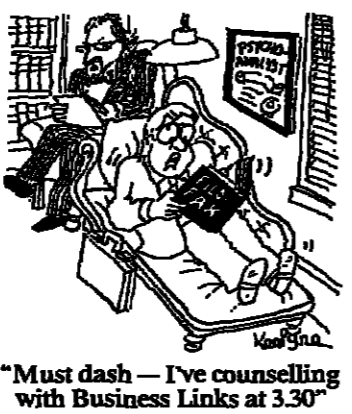
By David Fanning

MORE coherent and simplified business support programmes have been promised by Michael Heseltine. Launching the results of the Government's four-month consultation on improvements to DTI help for businesses, particularly small firms, the Deputy Prime Minister told the House of Commons: "We are committed to making government-funded support as customer-focused as possible."

projects in whole industries, from advanced robotics to textiles. The money available to bidders in the first round of challenges will not be known until after next month's Budget. The Government has indicated that it intends to make available around £30 million a year initially, building up to around £30 million a year. Four avenues of support have been identified by the DTI: helping businesses to develop employees' skills and creativity; promoting commercial exploitation of technology and know-how; improving market information gathering and supplier and customer networks; and easing access to sources of capital and working funds.



Heseltine: customised support



"Must dash - I've counselling with Business Links at 3.30"

Richard Page, the small business minister, and Barbara Roche, his opposite number on the Labour benches, will be keynote speakers at the national small firms policy and research conference being held at the University of Central England's business school, Birmingham, on November 20-22. The event forms part of the West Midlands Festival of Industry and Enterprise. Fees are £150 for one day, £275 for the full conference and £395 including accommodation, all prices plus VAT. Further details can be obtained from Rachel Saice on 0121 331 5464.

Midland Bank is offering up to 18 months of free banking to small business start-ups by its existing personal account holders as part of a revamping of its business banking. Firms are able to claim a 0.5 per cent discount on small business loans and overdrafts linked to Midland Bank insurance.

A Japanese senior trade adviser, Dr Keiichiro Komatsu, has joined the Department of Trade and Industry's Exports to Japan unit on secondment from the Japan External Trade Organisation. The Exports to Japan Unit is on 0171 215 4913.

A series of articles designed to help business angels and companies seeking finance have been reprinted by the Local Investment Networking Company. Topics include the valuing of a business, due diligence, heads of agreement and preference shares.

Midland Bank has paid for the reprint and copies are available free by calling 0345 180180. Aztec, the training and enterprise council for Merton, Wandsworth and Kingston upon Thames, is holding an enterprise fair for high-flyers at Wandsworth Civic Centre on Saturday. Visitors will be offered free information and advice. Anyone in the three boroughs who is starting a new business is eligible to join the Tec's high-flyers programme.

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IMMIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND. Seminar: London - Friday 22 November 1996. Information on immigration requirements, residence entry criteria, business opportunities & current economic conditions.

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Sell memorable phone numbers, and ring up the profits. Dealers are selling Personal Numbers and Freephone Numbers that sell names - making thousands of pounds per number sold.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. FREE .NET.PIC. The UK's first free Internet Access Provider is now offering its shares for sale under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS).

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. NOTICE TO READERS. What we take responsible precautions with all advertisements. Readers are strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitment.

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PAY YOUR MORTGAGE IN ONE YEAR. ENERGY 2000. Energy 2000 Britain's leading utility expert gives you the opportunity to become financially independent.

You've planned your new business. Now write your business plan. Page 18 shows you how. NatWest's comprehensive Business Start-Up Guide covers many of the things you should consider before going it alone.



Judicial notice of council breaches Disclosing care evidence to police

Hackney London Borough Council v Muller. Before Lord Justice Waite, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Otton. Judgment October 18. A county court could take judicial notice of previous breaches of undertakings to it by a local authority when imposing a penalty for such a breach.

Newington, London, such works to be commenced on or before December 1, 1994 and completed before March 31, 1995. Those works were not carried out or even started within the specified dates, and had still not now arrived at the stage of completion.

question it was necessary to look at the nature and scope of judicial notice. It was well established that courts might take judicial notice of various matters when they were so notorious, or clearly established, or susceptible of demonstration by reference to a readily obtainable and authoritative source that evidence of their existence was unnecessary.

determine whether the matters, namely, the conduct, were notorious or clearly established by implication the judge decided that they were. Even if they could not be so categorised they were clearly susceptible of demonstration by reference to a readily obtainable or authoritative source, namely, the court records of those occasions where the council had given undertakings and had been brought back to the breach of an agreed plaintiff.

In re C (a Minor) (Care Proceedings: Disclosure). Before Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas. Judgment July 31. Where a father, in care proceedings in chambers, admitted throwing his infant daughter against a fence, resulting in injuries which caused her death, a judge had correctly exercised his discretion in causing disclosure of that information to the police and later, on application, of the medical evidence.

her death. With the leave of the judge the local authority wrote to the police, informing them of that fact. The judge later ordered disclosure of various documents to the police but refused to disclose the statements made by the parents or those parts of the transcript and judgment relating to the injuries sustained by S.C., including the evidence of the mother and father and other members of the family.

suspicion of having caused her injuries. The judge warned each of them: "Before you give evidence I have to tell you that anything you say... cannot be used in any criminal trial against you which relates to the death of S.C." That statement by the judge was somewhat wider than the words of section 98 envisaged. The judge did not tell any witness that the evidence given by that witness would remain confidential.

killing of a young child. In those circumstances, the public interest in the administration of justice by proper investigation and the prosecution of a crime of such gravity were weighty factors indeed favouring disclosure. The judge had directed himself fully and correctly as to the law. However, his Lordship parted company with him in relation to the statements of Mr and Mrs C and such parts of the evidence and judgment as related to the injuries sustained by S.C. and the causation thereof, including the evidence given by the parents. That was a grave allegation indeed.

Cross-examination on affidavit of assets

Long Line Ltd of Korea v vdsburg Investments Corporation of Liberia and others. Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Phillips. Judgment October 17. A court could properly order a defendant subject to a Mareva injunction to undergo cross-examination on his affidavit of assets where it was just and convenient to do so. An order would, however, be an exceptional measure, which should not become a routine feature of Mareva proceedings.

Mr M. David Allen and Mr Richard Waller for Mr Yamvris; Mr David Joseph for the plaintiffs. LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS rejected Mr Allen's submission that the court had no jurisdiction to order a Mareva defendant to submit to cross-examination on a defendant's affidavit or that even if such jurisdiction existed it would inevitably be wrong in principle to exercise it. The issue was covered by authority: see A.J. Bekhor & Co Ltd v Bilton [1981] QB 923 and House of Spring Gardens Ltd v Waite [1995] FSR 173.

The passage from Mr Justice Scott's judgment in Bayer AG v Winter (No 2) [1986] 1 WLR 540, 543 in which Mr Allen had relied, did not provide any foundation for his submission as to jurisdiction. Rejecting Mr Allen's argument that cross-examination should never be ordered unless it was the only means available of ensuring that the Mareva was effective, his Lordship said that the test was simply whether in all the circumstances it was both just and convenient to make the order.

issues was a matter to which the judge should have regard when considering whether to permit the process. However Order 20, rule 1A(1), (2) provided a valuable safeguard against such abuse. It would seem to be tailor-made to deal with the point. If such cross-examination disclosed information which was relevant to the substantive action, the court had jurisdiction to prevent consequent injustice by dismissing an application to make use of it at all.

Without meaning to suggest that such a restriction would always be appropriate, his Lordship considered that the rule made it impossible for Mr Allen's submission to succeed. He would dismiss the appeal. Lord Justice Kennedy agreed. Solicitors: Hewett & Co. Ince & Co.

REGINA v HODGSON. Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Beldford and Mr Justice Cresswell. Judgment October 17. Section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, with its additional control over sexual offenders, was commenced by Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment in appropriate cases where the whole or part of the sentence was imposed in respect of a sexual offence.

ment. He had been released on January 6, 1995. Mr Nicholas Hilliard for the Attorney-General; Mr Thomas Eaton for the offender. THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that, having reviewed the offender's record and the relevant authorities, their Lordships were of the opinion that the seven-year sentence was unduly lenient and would be substituted by one of 12 years, which was proper.

desirability of preventing the commission by them of further offences and securing their rehabilitation. The trial judge had made such an order and, by making it, it was apparent that he had appreciated the importance of the factors which led their Lordships to impose the sentence that they had. Although their Lordships had differed from him as to the length of sentence, they wished to take the opportunity of drawing attention to section 44 of the 1991 Act, commending it to those passing sentence in appropriate cases.

Correction

In R v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, Ex parte Blood (The Times October 18) the solicitors for Mrs Blood were Leigh Day & Co. In West Midlands Probation Committee v Secretary of State for the Environment (The Times October 18) Mr Rabinder Singh appeared as junior to Mr W. Robert Griffiths, QC, for the applicant.

REGINA v BINGHAM OF CORNHILL. Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Beldford and Mr Justice Cresswell. Judgment October 17. Section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, with its additional control over sexual offenders, was commenced by Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment in appropriate cases where the whole or part of the sentence was imposed in respect of a sexual offence.

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Sentencing sex offenders

REGINA v BINGHAM OF CORNHILL. Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Beldford and Mr Justice Cresswell. Judgment October 17. Section 44 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, with its additional control over sexual offenders, was commenced by Lord Bingham of Cornhill. Lord Chief Justice, in giving judgment in appropriate cases where the whole or part of the sentence was imposed in respect of a sexual offence.

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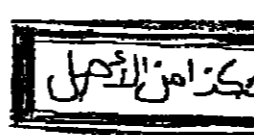
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Business to Business

Advertisement for 'A Fast Well Equipped PC - A Great Choice For Experts And Beginners Alike'. Features a computer image and text describing the benefits of the PC system, including 'Interest Free Credit' and '0%'. Contact information: MUN 01282 777 555.

Advertisement for 'BUSINESS SERVICES'. Includes sections for 'Videoconferencing without the set-up costs', 'SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT ENDS UNCERTAINTY', 'THE BRITISH FAX DIRECTORY', 'DO BUSINESS ON THE INTERNET', 'INCREASE YOUR INCOME BY £50K', 'The travel franchise for business people', 'DON'T GO UNDER COMPANY AND PARTNERSHIP', '24 HOUR LIVE TELEPHONE ANSWERING', 'PHONES FROM £9.99', and 'MOBILE PHONES'.





The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option



Philippe Albert, right, of Newcastle, celebrates his goal against Manchester United. His goals are valuable in ITF

Table listing ITF players with columns for Code, Name, Team, Goals, and Points. Includes players like M Watt, N Walker, D Seaman, V Bartram, J Lurid, M Bosnich, M Oakes, M Flowers, S Given, G Marshall, K Harkin, K Hitchcock, S Ogrizovic, J Filan, M Taylor, R Hoult, A Maxwell, L Key, I Westwater, N Southall, J Kearton, P Gerrard, G Rousset, J Leighton, D Lekovic, M Beany, P Evans, N Martyn, K Poole, K Keller, D James, A Warner, P Schmelchel, R van der Gouw, G Walsh, A Miller, S Howie, S Hislop, S Grice, M Crossley, A Fettes, T Wright, S Thomson, A Goram, K Gressman, K Blackett, N Moss, L Perez, A Coton, I Walker, L Wikloso, S Mastone, N Sullivan, P Heald.

Table listing ITF players with columns for Code, Name, Team, Goals, and Points. Includes players like S McKimmie, L Dixon, N Winterburn, S Marrow, S Blanton, A Wright, G Charles, P King, F Nelson, H Berg, G Le Saux, J Kenna, G Croft, J McManama, C O'Neil, D Petruscu, S Clarke, T Phelan, S Minto, D Burrows, B Burrows, M Hall, R Gausau, C Powell, D Yates, J Kavanagh, P Parker, M Malpas, M Perry, N Duffy, C Miller, D Durkin, M Hottiger, A Hinchcliffe, E Barrett, M Jackson, G Locke, N Pionter, W Miller, A Dow, G MacPherson, G Kelly, A Dorigo, P Beesley, M Whitlow, S Grayson, N Lewis, F Rolling, R Jones, S Harkness, S I Bjornesbye, P Charnock, D Irwin, G Neville, P Neville, N Cox, R Branco, C Morris, C Fleming, S Blackmore, S McMillan, W Barton, S Watson, R Elliott, J Beresford, S Pearce, D Lyttle, A Haaland, N Jerkan, P Bonar, D Kirkwood, D Robertson, J Brown, I Nolan, P Atherton, S Nicol, D Stefanovic, L Briscoe, J Dodd, F Benni, S Chaston, D Kubicki, M Scott, G Hall, D Austin, C Wilson, J Edinburgh, D Kerstake, J Dicks, J Brackner, K Rowland, M Bowen, K Brown, B Thatcher, S Nicol, K Cunningham, D Jupp, C Perry.

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Table listing ITF players with columns for Code, Name, Team, Goals, and Points. Includes players like S Booth, D Shearer, W Dadds, I Wright, D Bergkamp, J Hartson, D Fyfe, D Yorks, S Milosevic, T Johnson, J Joachim, K Gallacher, C Sutton, M Foran, N Gudmundsson, P van Hooft, J Cadete, G Vialli, M Hughes, J Spencer, M Shein, S Whelan, D Dublin, P Ndlovu, D Sturridge, M Gabbadoni, A Ward, M Shein, S Coyne, A Moore, S Petrie, D Ferguson, G Stuart, P Hoadout, J Robertson, C Cameron, D Beckford, K Wright, D Jackson, P Wright, A Vlahovic, I Rusu, B Deane, M Hatley, S Claridge, E Heskey, M Robins, I Marshall, J Fowler, S Collymore, E Cantona, P Scholes, A Cole, O G Sotekjer, N Barry, J Parnell, F Ravenhill, M Beck, T Coyne, D Arnott, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, P Best, P Kitson, D Huckerby, D Saunders, B Roy, P McGregor, K Campbell, S Hogg, S Howe, A Sileraz, P Duffield, G Durie, G Anderson, S McColist, D Hirst, A Booth, M Bright, G Whittingham, O Donaldson, R Humphreys, S Le Tissier, N Shipperley, G Watson, F Bennett, E Ostenstadt, P Stewart, C Russell, D Kelly, L Howey, M Bridges, S Angell, N Quinn, S Armstrong, C Armstrong, R Allen, F Raduciu, I Dumitrescu, I Downes, West Ham, S Jones, D Holdsworth, E Ekoku, J Goodman, J Ewel, A Clarke, M Hartford, G Bilsett.

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